OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

BLUE CROSS®, BLUE SHIELD® and the Cross and Shield Symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. All other trademarks and service marks contained in this guideline are the property of their respective owners, which are not affiliated with BCBSAZ.
OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION (cont.)

**Description:**

Transcatheter Uterine Artery Embolization (UAE):
Selective catheterization and injection of small amount of material (i.e., gelfoam, polyvinyl alcohol) into the uterine arteries to occlude the blood supply to the uterus and uterine fibroids. It potentially serves as an alternative to hysterectomy. UAE has also been used to treat other conditions including postpartum hemorrhaging, cervical ectopic pregnancy and bleeding uterine arteriovenous malformation (AVM).

Laparoscopic Bipolar Coagulation:
Laparoscopic bipolar probes are used to obstruct the blood supply to the fibroid by coagulating the uterine vessels to induce atrophy. Laparoscopic bipolar coagulation has been investigated as an alternative to uterine artery embolization.

**Definitions:**

*Endometrium:*
The mucous membrane tissue that lines the inside of the uterus.

*Endometriosis:*
Abnormal occurrence of endometrial tissue growing outside the uterus in the pelvic cavity that may cause pain, irregular bleeding and/or infertility.

*Adenomyosis:*
Abnormal uterine thickening that occurs when the endometrial tissue grows into the fibrous and muscular layers of the uterus, leading to pain and heavy menstrual bleeding.

*Fibroid:*
Benign smooth muscle tumor of the uterus, also called leiomyomata. Uterine fibroids may cause pelvic pressure, pain, irregular bleeding and/or infertility.
OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION (cont.)

Criteria:

Uterine Artery Embolization (UAE):

- Transcatheter embolization of the uterine arteries for the treatment of uterine fibroids is considered medically necessary with documentation of ALL of the following:
  1. Diagnosis is confirmed by ultrasound
  2. ONE of the following symptoms:
     - Asymptomatic fibroid(s) large enough to palpate abdominally
     - Bladder pressure with urinary frequency and no evidence of infection
     - Chronic low back pain/pressure attributed to uterine fibroids
     - Pelvic/abdominal discomfort/pressure without other explanation
     - Profuse uterine bleeding for greater than 8 days or documented anemia

- Transcatheter embolization of the uterine arteries for the treatment of postpartum uterine hemorrhage is considered medically necessary.

- One repeat transcatheter embolization of the uterine arteries to treat persistent symptoms of uterine fibroids after an initial uterine artery embolization is considered medically necessary.

- Transcatheter embolization of the uterine arteries for the treatment of uterine arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is considered medically necessary.

- Transcatheter embolization of the uterine arteries for the treatment of adenomyosis or endometriosis is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

- Transcatheter embolization for the management of cervical ectopic pregnancy is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.
OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION (cont.)

Criteria: (cont.)

**Laparoscopic Bipolar Coagulation:**

- Laparoscopic occlusion of the uterine arteries using bipolar coagulation for the treatment of uterine fibroids is considered *medically necessary* with documentation of **ALL of the following:**

  1. Diagnosis is confirmed by ultrasound
  2. **ONE** of the following symptoms:
     - Asymptomatic fibroid(s) large enough to palpate abdominally
     - Bladder pressure with urinary frequency
     - Chronic low back pain/pressure attributed to uterine fibroids
     - Profuse uterine bleeding for greater than 8 days or documented anemia
     - Pelvic discomfort/pressure

Resources:

Literature reviewed 09/26/17. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

The BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual (MPRM) policy is included in our guideline review. References cited in the MPRM policy are not duplicated on this guideline.

Resources prior to 08/21/13 may be requested from the BCBSAZ Medical Policy and Technology Research Department.


OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION (cont.)

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. BCBSAZ provides appropriate free aids and services, such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats, to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. BCBSAZ also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, call (602) 864-4884 for Spanish and (877) 475-4799 for all other languages and other aids and services.

If you believe that BCBSAZ has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, P.O. Box 13466, Phoenix, AZ 85002-3466, (602) 864-2288, TTY/TDD (602) 864-4823, crc@azblue.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail or email. If you need help filing a grievance BCBSAZ's Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 1-800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

Multi-Language Interpreter Services:

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 602-864-4884.

Navajo: Díí kwe’é atah nilínígíí Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haída yit’éego bina’idíldíldgo éí doocdago Háída bígí aniíyeedígíí t’áadoó le’e yina’idíldíldgo beehaz’ááníi hóó díí t’áa hazaad’éhí háká a’doowolgo beez’h’a doo bááh nilínígóó. Atá’ halne’ígíí kojí bíchí’í hodiííhí 877-475-4799.

Chinese: 如果您，或是您正在協助的對象，有關於插入項目的名稱 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 方面的問題，您有權利免費以您的母語得到幫助和訊息。洽詢一位翻譯員，請撥電話 在此插入數字 877-475-4799。

Vietnamese: Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thể thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 877-475-4799.

Arabic: إن كان لديك أو أدى شخص تساؤله أسئلة بخصوص Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona، فلدي الحق في الحصول على المساعدة والمعلومات الضرورية بلغتك من دون أي تكلفة. للتحدث مع مترجم اتصل ب 877-475-4799.
OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES USING TRANSCATHETER EMBOLIZATION (cont.)

Multi-Language Interpreter Services: (cont.)

Tagalog: Kung ikaw, o ang iyong tutuunan, ay may mga katanungan tungkol sa Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, may karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika ng walang gastos. Upang makausap ang isang tagasalin, tumawag sa 877-475-4799.

Korean: 만약 귀하 또는 귀하의 동료들이 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona에 관해서 질문이 있다면 귀하는 그러한 도움과 정보를 귀하의 언어로 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 그렇게 통역사와 얘기하기 위해서는 877-475-4799 로 전화하십시오.

French: Si vous, ou quelqu'un que vous êtes en train d'aider, a des questions à propos de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, vous avez le droit d'obtenir de l'aide et l'information dans votre langue à aucun coût. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 877-475-4799.

German: Falls Sie oder jemand, dem Sie helfen, Fragen zum Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haben, haben Sie das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Um mit einem Dolmetscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 877-475-4799 an.

Russian: Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 877-475-4799.

Japanese: ご本人様、またはお客様の身の回りの方でも、Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizonaについてご質問がございましたら、ご希望の言語でサポートを受けたり、情報を入手したりすることができます。料金はかかりません。通訳とお話される場合、877-475-4799 までお電話ください。

Farsi:

آگر شما یا کسی که شما به او کمک می‌کنید، سوال‌هایی در مورد Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona داشته باشید، حق جلوه به طور رایگان دریافت شما به 877-475-4799 می‌باشد.

Assyrian:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona ئین ئین ئی دەکەوێتە، کە لە ئیکەڵەکە، ما دەکەوێتە، ئاسمانەکەی. ئەمە شەوە چەکەی، ئەمە شەوە چەکەی، 877-475-4799.

Serbo-Croatian: Ukoliko Vi ili neko kome Vi pomažete ima pitanje o Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, imate pravo da besplatno dobijete pomoć i informacije na Vašem jeziku. Da biste razgovarali sa prevodiocem, nazovite 877-475-4799.

Thai: หากคุณหรือคนรอบข้างของคุณมีคำถามเกี่ยวกับ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona คุณสามารถได้รับความช่วยเหลือและข้อมูลในภาษาของคุณได้โดยไม่คิดค่าใช้จ่าย พร้อมสอบถาม โทร 877-475-4799