



MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES
SECTION: SURGERY

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/19/13
LAST REVIEW DATE: 09/18/18
LAST CRITERIA REVISION DATE:
ARCHIVE DATE:

COMPOSITE TISSUE ALLOTRANSPLANTATION

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.

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COMPOSITE TISSUE ALLOTRANSPLANTATION (cont.)

Description:

Composite tissue allotransplantation (CTA) is transplantation of histologically different tissues. It has been investigated for facial transplants in individuals with severely disfigured faces and for hand transplants in individuals unsatisfied with prosthetic hands.

Unlike most solid organ transplantations (e.g., kidney and heart transplants), CTA is not life-saving and, its primary aim is to increase an individual's quality of life (e.g., by having a more normal appearance and a sense of wholeness). In the case of facial transplantations in particular, there is a large potential psychosocial benefit of successful surgery. Moreover, it is hoped that function may be better following CTA than with alternative interventions (e.g., grasping and lifting after hand transplants and basic functions such as blinking and mouth closure after facial transplants). In addition, in the case of face transplantation, the procedure may be less traumatic than "traditional" facial reconstructive surgery using the individual's own tissue. For example, traditional procedures often involve dozens of operations whereas facial transplantation involves only a few operations.

CTA is associated with potential challenges and risks as well as potential benefits. Individuals who undergo face or hand transplantation must adhere to a lifelong regimen of immunosuppressive drugs. Risks of immunosuppression include acute and chronic rejection, opportunistic infection that may be life-threatening and metabolic disorders such as diabetes, kidney damage and lymphoma. There are also potential adverse impacts on quality of life, including the need to commit to a lifetime immunosuppression regimen. Other challenges include the need to actively participate in intensive physical therapy in order to obtain functionality and the potential for frustration and disappointment if functionality does not meet expectations. Moreover, there is the potential for allograft loss, which would lead to additional procedures in hand transplant individuals, and there are limited reconstructive options for facial transplantation individuals. Furthermore, in the case of hand transplants, there is a risk that functional ability (e.g., grasping and lifting objects), may be lower than with a prosthetic hand, especially compared to newer electronic prosthetic devices. Due to the importance of selecting candidates who can withstand these physical and mental challenges, potential hand and face transplant recipients undergo extensive screening for both medical and psychosocial suitability.

COMPOSITE TISSUE ALLOTRANSPLANTATION (cont.)

Criteria:

- Composite tissue allotransplantation of the face and/or hand 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.
- Composite tissue allotransplantation of other body parts not listed above 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.

These body parts include, *but are not limited to:*

- Ankle
- Foot
- Lower extremity
- Lower leg
- Thigh
- Toes

Resources:

Literature reviewed 09/18/18. 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.

1. 7.03.13 BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual. Composite Tissue Allotransplantation (CTA) of the Hand and Face. Re-issue date 08/09/2018, issue date 02/14/2013.



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COMPOSITE TISSUE ALLOTRANSPLANTATION (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, 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 nilinígíí Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haada yit'éego bina'idííkidgo éí doodago Háida bíjá anilyeedígíí t'áadoo le'é yina'idííkidgo beehaz'áanii hólg díí t'áa hazaadk'ehjí háká a'doowołgo bee haz'ą doo baqah ilínígóó. Ata' halne'ígíí kojí' bich'í' hodíilnih 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 thêm 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 لدى شخص تساعد أسئلة بخصوص Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona، فلديك الحق في الحصول على المساعدة والمعلومات الضرورية بلغتك من دون أية تكلفة. للتحدث مع مترجم اتصل بـ 877-475-4799.

