Magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound uses two technologies: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound. It is a noninvasive procedure, which means the skin is not cut. MRI uses a magnetic field, radio frequency, and a computer to create detailed images of organs, tissues, and bones. Ultrasound uses sound waves at a higher frequency than a person can hear. Ultrasound is usually used to create images of body structures to help diagnose illnesses. But in this treatment, the ultrasound beams are at a different frequency and are focused on one area. Heat is created at the point where the high frequency beams meet, and the heat ablates (destroys) unhealthy tissue. The MRI is used to both guide the location of the ultrasound beams and to monitor treatment. This policy discusses when magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound ablation may be considered medically necessary and covered by the health plan.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.
### Policy Coverage Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound ablation | Magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound ablation may be considered medically necessary to help control pain in adults with bone metastases who have failed or are not candidates for radiotherapy.  
Magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound ablation may be considered medically necessary for the treatment of medicine-refractory (such as beta-blockers or anticonvulsants) essential tremors. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Investigational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound ablation | Magnetic resonance-guided high-intensity ultrasound ablation is considered investigational in all other situations including but not limited to:  
- Treatment of uterine fibroids  
- Treatment of other tumors (eg, brain cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, desmoid tumors) (see Related Policy 8.01.61 Focal Treatments for Prostate Cancer) |

### Documentation Requirements

The patient’s medical records submitted for review for all conditions should document that medical necessity criteria are met. The record should include the following:
- Documentation that the requested service is for pain control that has failed for patient with bone metastases, or not a candidate for radiotherapy

OR
- Documentation that patient has essential tremors not responding to medication (such as beta-blockers or anticonvulsants)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0398T</td>
<td>Magnetic resonance image guided high intensity focused ultrasound (MRgFUS), stereotactic ablation lesion, intracranial for movement disorder including stereotactic navigation and frame placement when performed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0071T</td>
<td>Focused ultrasound ablation of uterine leiomyomata, including MR guidance; total leiomyomata volume of less than 200 cc of tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0072T</td>
<td>Focused ultrasound ablation of uterine leiomyomata, including MR guidance; total leiomyomata volume greater or equal to 200 cc of tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53899</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, urinary system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55899</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, male genital system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58999</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, female genital system (nonobstetriclal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76999</td>
<td>Unlisted ultrasound procedure (eg diagnostic, interventional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). HCPCS codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare Services (CMS).

The procedure may be performed in a magnetic resonance imaging suite with an open magnetic resonance scanner, which might not be available at many institutions. The procedure is performed in an outpatient setting, with the patient under conscious sedation.

**Related Information**

**Consideration of Age**

Magnetic resonance–guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) is considered medically necessary for bone metastases in adult patients, age 18 and older. This is based on the randomized controlled trial that studied the use of MRgFUS in patients with bone metastases.

**Evidence Review**
Description

An integrated system providing magnetic resonance–guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) treatment is proposed as a noninvasive therapy for uterine fibroids and pain palliation of bone metastases. MRgFUS is also being investigated as a treatment of other benign and malignant tumors.

Background

Uterine Fibroids

Uterine fibroids are one of the most common conditions affecting women in the reproductive years. Symptoms of uterine fibroids include menorrhagia, pelvic pressure, or pain.

Treatment

Several approaches currently available to treat symptomatic uterine fibroids include: hysterectomy, abdominal myomectomy, laparoscopic and hysteroscopic myomectomy, hormone therapy, uterine artery embolization, and watchful waiting. Hysterectomy and various myomectomy procedures are considered the criterion standard treatment.

Metastatic Bone Disease

Metastatic bone disease is one of the most common causes of cancer pain.

Treatment

Existing treatments include conservative measures (eg, massage, exercise) and pharmacologic agents (eg, analgesics, bisphosphonates, corticosteroids). For patients who do not respond to these treatments, standard care is external-beam radiotherapy. However, a substantial proportion of patients have residual pain after radiotherapy, and there is a need for alternative treatments for these patients. One option, radiofrequency ablation, is addressed in a Related Policy.
**Essential Tremors**

Essential tremor (ET) is the most common movement disorder, with an estimated prevalence of 5% worldwide. ET most often affects the hands and arms, may affect the head and voice, and rarely includes the face, legs, and trunk. ET is heterogeneous among patients, varying in frequency, amplitude, causes of exacerbation, and association with other neurologic deficits.

**Treatment**

The neuropathology of ET is uncertain, with some evidence suggesting that ET is localized in the brainstem and cerebellum. If patients with ET experience intermittent or persistent disability due to the tremors, initial therapy is with drugs (β-blockers or anticonvulsants). For medicine-refractory patients, surgery (deep brain stimulation or thalamotomy) may be offered, though high rates of adverse events have been observed.

**Magnetic Resonance–Guided Focused Ultrasound**

Magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) is a noninvasive treatment that combines 2 technologies: focused ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The ultrasound beam penetrates through the soft tissues and, using MRI for guidance and monitoring, the beam can be focused on targeted sites. Ultrasound causes a local increase in temperature in the target tissue, resulting in coagulation necrosis while sparing the surrounding normal structures. Ultrasound waves from each sonication are directed at a focal point that has a maximum focal volume of 20 nm in diameter and 15 nm in height/length. This causes a rapid rise in temperature (ie, to 65°C-85°C), which is sufficient to ablate tissue at the focal point. In addition to providing guidance, the associated MRI can provide online thermometric imaging, a temperature “map”, to confirm the therapeutic effect of the ablation treatment and allow for real-time adjustment of the treatment parameters.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the ExAblate MRgFUS system (InSightec) for two indications: treatment of uterine fibroids (leiomyomata) and palliation of pain associated with tumors metastatic to bone. The ultrasound equipment is specially designed to be compatible with magnetic resonance magnets and is integrated into standard clinical MRI units; it also includes a patient table, which has a cradle that houses the focused ultrasound transducer in water or a light oil bath. Some models have a detachable cradle; only certain cradle types can be used for palliation of pain associated with metastatic bone cancer. For
treating pain associated with bone metastases, the aim of MRgFUS is to destroy nerves in the bone surface surrounding the tumor.

MRgFUS is also being investigated for treatment of other tumors, including breast, prostate, brain, and desmoid tumors as well as nonspinal osteoid osteoma. (For prostate cancer see Related Policy 8.01.61 Focal Treatments for Prostate Cancer.)

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have uterine fibroids who receive MRgFUS, the evidence includes 2 small RCTs, nonrandomized comparative studies, and case series. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, quality of life, resource utilization, and treatment-related morbidity. One RCT (N=20) has reported some health outcomes, but its primary purpose was to determine the feasibility of a larger trial. It did not find statistically significant differences in quality of life outcomes between active and sham treatment groups, but it did find lower fibroid volumes after active treatment. This trial did not have an active comparator, the clinical significance of the primary outcome was unclear, and there were no follow-up data beyond 1 year. The second RCT (N=49) is ongoing; preliminary results at 6 weeks posttreatment, comparing MRgFUS with uterine artery embolization have shown that the 2 groups are comparable in medication use and symptom improvement following treatments. Patients in the MRgFUS group reported recovering significantly faster than patients in the uterine artery embolization group, as measured by time to return to work and time to normal activities. In a separate 2013 comparative study, outcomes appeared to be better with uterine artery embolization than with MRgFUS. Long-term data on the treatment effects, recurrence rates, and impact on future fertility and pregnancy are lacking. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals with metastatic bone cancer who failed or are not candidates for radiotherapy who receive MRgFUS, the evidence includes a sham-controlled randomized trial and several case series. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, health status measures, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The RCT found statistically significant improvements after MRgFUS in a composite outcome comprised of reduction in pain and morphine use, and in pain reduction as a stand-alone outcome. A substantial proportion of patients in the treatment group experienced adverse events, but most events were transient and not severe. The case series reported reductions in pain following MRgFUS treatment, consistent with the RCT. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.
For individuals with other tumors (eg, breast cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, , desmoid tumors, nonspinal osteoid osteoma) who receive MRgFUS, the evidence includes small case series. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, health status measures, and treatment-related morbidity. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals with medicine-refractory essential tremors who receive MRgFUS, the evidence includes 2 systematic reviews that identified an RCT and several observational studies. Relevant outcomes include symptoms, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The assessment did not pool study results but concluded that overall, MRgFUS decreased tremor severity and improved quality of life. The sham-controlled randomized trial found significant improvements in the treatment group in tremor severity, functional improvement, and quality of life after 3 months of follow-up. The improvements in hand tremor score, function, and quality of life were maintained at the 2-year follow-up. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials

Some currently ongoing and unpublished trials that might influence this review are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Key Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT00981578a</td>
<td>A Feasibility Study to Evaluate the Safety and Initial Effectiveness of ExAblate MR Guided Focused Ultrasound Surgery in the Treatment of Pain Resulting from Metastatic Bone Tumors with the ExAblate 2100 Conformal Bone System</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Jun 2017 (ongoing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01226576a</td>
<td>Focal MR Guided Focused Ultrasound Treatment of Localized Low-Intermediate Risk Prostate Cancer: Feasibility Study</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dec 2017 (ongoing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01833806a</td>
<td>A Phase IV Post Approval Clinical Study of ExAblate Treatment of Metastatic Bone Tumors for the Palliation of Pain</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Oct 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01473485a</td>
<td>A Study to Evaluate the Safety and Feasibility of Transcranial</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dec 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT No.</td>
<td>Trial Name</td>
<td>Planned Enrollment</td>
<td>Completion Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCT00147056a</td>
<td>A Study to Evaluate the Safety and Feasibility of Transcranial MRI-Guided</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dec 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focused Ultrasound Surgery in the Treatment of Brain Tumors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT02252380a</td>
<td>A Feasibility Clinical Trial of the Magnetic Resonance Guided Focused</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dec 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ultrasound (MRgFUS) for the Management of Treatment-Refractory Movement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT02260752</td>
<td>Comparing Options for Management: Patient Centered Results for Uterine</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Sep 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fibroids</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT02968784a</td>
<td>Focal ExAblate MR Guided Focused Ultrasound Treatment for Management of</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Jun 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organ-Confinde Intermediate Risk Prostate Cancer: Evaluation of Safety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Effectiveness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01657942a</td>
<td>Focal MR Guided Focused Ultrasound Treatment of Localized Low and</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Oct 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate Risk Prostate Lesions</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT02794558a</td>
<td>A Clinical Study to Evaluate the Safety and Effectiveness of MR Guided</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focused Ultrasound Surgery in the Treatment of Early Breast Carcinomas</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01091883a</td>
<td>Phase IIIA Study Comparing the Safety and Effectiveness of MR Guided</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Mar 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focused Ultrasound and External Beam Radiation for Treatment of Metastatic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bone Tumors and Multiple Myeloma</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unpublished

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCT01285960a</td>
<td>A Clinical Study to Evaluate Safety of the ExAblate Model 2100 Type 1.1</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Apr 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>System in the Treatment of Symptomatic Uterine Fibroids</td>
<td></td>
<td>(completed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01620359a</td>
<td>Study of ExAblate Focused Ultrasound Ablation of Breast Cancer under</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jul 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MR Guidance and MRI Evaluation of Ablation</td>
<td></td>
<td>(completed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01834937a</td>
<td>A Post Approval Registry: ExAblate Treatment of Metastatic Bone Tumors</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Apr 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for the Palliation of Pain</td>
<td></td>
<td>(completed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCT: national clinical trial.

a Denotes industry-sponsored or cosponsored trial.
Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

**Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada**

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (2015) published practice guidelines on the management of uterine fibroids in women with otherwise unexplained infertility. The guidelines found no studies comparing magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound with myomectomy or in women with fibroids who had infertility as their primary complaint, and thus additional data are needed before the treatment is offered to this patient population.

**American Society for Radiation Oncology**

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (2017) (ASTRO) published guidelines on palliative radiotherapy for bone metastases, which stated that external-beam radiotherapy continues to be the primary therapy for treating painful uncomplicated bone metastases. The guidelines do not mention magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound. If patients experience persistent or recurrent pain more than 1 month after initial treatment, the guidelines recommended retreatment with external-beam radiotherapy. As for advanced radiotherapy such as stereotactic body radiotherapy for retreatment of recurrent pain in spine bone lesions, these “may be feasible, effective, and safe, but the panel recommends that this approach should be limited to clinical trial participation or on a registry given limited data supporting routine use.”

**National Comprehensive Cancer Network**

Guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network on bone cancer (v.2.2018), breast cancer (v.1.2018), brain cancer (v.1.2018), and prostate cancer (v.2.2018) do not mention magnetic resonance-guided ultrasound as a treatment option.

**Medicare National Coverage**

There is no national coverage determination.
Regulatory Status

In October 2004, the ExAblate® 2000 System (InSightec) was approved by FDA through the premarket approval process for “ablation of uterine fibroid tissue in pre- or perimenopausal women with symptomatic uterine fibroids who desire a uterine sparing procedure.” Treatment is indicated for women with a uterine gestational size of fewer than 24 weeks who have completed childbearing.

In October 2012, the ExAblate® System, Model 2000/2100/2100 VI, was approved by FDA through the premarket approval process for pain palliation in adults with metastatic bone cancer who have failed or are not candidates for radiotherapy. The device was evaluated through an expedited review process. FDA required a postapproval study with 70 patients to evaluate the effectiveness of the system under actual clinical conditions.

In July 2016, FDA approved the use of the ExAblate® Neuro System for the treatment of essential tremors in patients who have not responded to medication (β-blockers or anticonvulsant drugs) through the premarket approval process.

FDA product codes: NRZ, POH.

References


### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/14/04</td>
<td>Add to OB/GYN Section - New Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/09/05</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with June 2005 TEC Assessment; references added; policy statement unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/23/06</td>
<td>Update Scope and Disclaimer - No other changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/12/06</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature review; title expanded to include, “and Other Tumors” reflecting indications other than uterine fibroids; “MRI-guided high intensity ultrasound ablation of other tumors...is considered investigational” added to policy statement; references added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/13/07</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy moved from OB/GYN to Surgery section and assigned a new number (previously BC.4.01.20).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/08/08</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature search; no change to the policy statement. References added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/10/09</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature search; no change to the policy statement. Title updated to remove “High-intensity” and “ablation of”. References added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/13/10</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature search. Policy statement updated to include palliative treatment of bone metastases added to the investigational statement regarding treatment of conditions other than uterine fibroids. References added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/10/11</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature review through December 2010. Reference numbers 10, 21, 22 and 25 added; other references reordered or removed. No change to policy statements. ICD-10 codes added to policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/25/12</td>
<td>Replace policy. Policy updated with literature review through December 2011. Reference numbers 7, 8 and 10 added; other references reordered or removed. No change to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/25/12</td>
<td>Update Coding Section – ICD-10 codes are now effective 10/01/2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/20/12</td>
<td>Code update: CPT codes 19499, 55899 and 58999 added to the policy to support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/15/13</td>
<td>Update Related Policies, add 7.01.548.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/08/13</td>
<td>Replace policy. Policy updated with literature review. Policy changed to single investigational statement; no change to intent of policy. Policy title changed to MRI-Guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS). References 10 and 17 added; other references renumbered or removed. CPT code 58999 corrected; it previously appeared as 55899, which is not the correct code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05/14</td>
<td>Annual Review. Policy updated with literature review through January 6, 2014; references 2, 6, and 14 added; other references renumbered or removed. Coding update: add CPT code 55899 and remove 55999 (wrong code); update descriptor for 58999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/14/15</td>
<td>Annual Review. Policy updated with literature review through January 6, 2015. Statement added that MRgFUS may be considered medically necessary for pain palliation in adult patients with metastatic bone cancer. (Previously considered Investigational). References 12, 21–22 added; others renumbered or removed. Policy statement changed as noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/25/15</td>
<td>Update Related Policies. Remove 7.01.548 as it was archived and add 8.01.61.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/16</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved April 12, 2016. Policy updated with literature review through December 15, 2015; references 2 and 23 added. Policy coverage unchanged. Global change to policy to remove “imaging” (e.g., title, policy statement) to standardize terminology to magnetic resonance–guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS). Coding update; CPT codes 47999 and 55899 removed from policy; these are moving to review by AIM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/24/16</td>
<td>Minor update. Removed codes 77299 and 77499 from information in the coding section that discusses radiation oncology unlisted codes. Correction to 05/01/16 History note: AIM is not reviewing 47999 and 55899.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/30/16</td>
<td>Coding update. Added CPT code 55899.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/08/16</td>
<td>Minor update. Language added to Rationale section to indicate that MRgFUS is considered medically necessary only in those age 18 and older based on randomized controlled trials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/01/17</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved June 22, 2017. Policy moved into new format. Reference to policy 8.01.61 added for prostate cancer diagnosis. No changes to policy statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01/18</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved September 11, 2018. Policy updated with literature review through May 2018; references 23–26 and 28 added. A policy statement added that MRgFUS ablation may be considered medically necessary for the treatment of medicine-refractory essential tremors. Added CPT codes 0398T, 53899, 55899, and...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Date | Comments
---|---
| 76999. |
| 05/10/19 | Coding update. Added CPT code 58999 to policy (inadvertently removed). Removed verbiage in the coding section that is no longer applicable. |

**Disclaimer:** This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2018 Premera All Rights Reserved.

**Scope:** Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.
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  • Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
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  • Qualified interpreters
  • Information written in other languages

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PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592, TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the 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, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)
Complaint forms are available at

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Premera Blue Cross は、差別のないコミュニケーションを目的として、次のサービスを無料で提供します。

• 画像語解オペレーター
• 大字印刷、音声、電子形式のドキュメント

差別のないコミュニケーションを目的として、次のサービスを無料で提供します。

• 資格の高い翻訳者
• 第一言語が英語でない情報

必要であれば、権利保護担当者に相談することをお勧めします。

Premera Blue Cross は、差別のないコミュニケーションを目的として、差別のないサービスを提供します。

If you believe that Premera 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:

Civil Rights Coordinator - Complaints and Appeals
PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592, TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the 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, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at

Getting Help in Other Languages

This Notice has Important Information. This notice may have important information about your application or coverage through Premera Blue Cross. There may be key dates in this notice. You may need to take action to prevent your health insurance or payment assistance from being lost. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost.

Call 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

中文 (Chinese):
本通知有重要的訊息。本通知可能有關於您透過 Premera Blue Cross 提交的申請或服務的重要訊息。本通知內可能有重要日期。您可能需要在截止日期之前採取行動，以保留您的健康保護或費用補貼。您有權利免費以您的母語得到本訊息和幫助。請撥電話 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)。

Oromo (Cushite):

Français (French):

Kreyòl ayisyen (Creole):
Avi silica a gen Enfòmsayon Enpòtan lidann. Avi silica a kapab genyen enfòmsayon enpòtan konsèn aplaniksaw yon lan oswa konse nan kouvètlè asirans lan atravè Premera Blue Cross. Kapab genyen dat ki enpòtan nan avsi silica a. Ou ka gen pou pran kék aksyon avan sèt la pou ou ka kenbe kouvètlè asirans sante w la oswa pou yo ka ede w avèk depans yo. Se dwa w pou resewa enfòmsayon sa a ak asistans nan lang o pale a, san ou pa gen pou peye pou sa. Rate nan 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Deutsche (German):

Hmoob (Hmong):

Ilokano (Ilocano):
Daytoy a Pakdaar ket naglaon iti Napateg nga Impomarsion. Daytoy a pakdaar mabalin nga adda ket naglaon iti napateg nga impomarsion maianggep iti aplikasyonno weny weny coverage babaen iti Premera Blue Cross. Daytoy ket mabalin dagiti importante a petsa iti daytoy a pakdaar. Mabalin nga adda rumbeng nga aramidenyo nga addang sabbay dagiti bagikan nga ariamdenyo nga addang tapo napagatinaliyo a daytoy coverage nga talo-ayno weny weny tulong kadagiti gastos. Adda karbenganyo a mangala iti daytoy nga impomarsion ken tulong iti bukodyo a pagpasao nga weny weny taaydanay. Tumawag ti numero nga 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Italiano (Italian):
 Kannada (Kannada):

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಮಹಿಲೆಗಳ ಸೇವೆಗಳು.

Português (Portuguese):

Este aviso contém informações importantes. Este aviso poderá conter informações importantes a respeito de sua aplicação ou cobertura por meio do Premera Blue Cross. Poderão existir datas importantes neste aviso. Talvez seja necessário que você tome providências dentro de determinados prazos para manter sua cobertura de saúde ou ajuda de custos. Você tem o direito de obter esta informação e ajuda em seu idioma e sem custos. Ligue para 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357) para obter assistência.

Română (Romanian):


Русский (Russian):

Настоящее уведомление содержит важную информацию. Это уведомление может содержать важную информацию о вашем заявлении или страховом покрытии через Premera Blue Cross. В настоящем уведомлении могут быть указаны ключевые даты. Вам, возможно, потребуется принять меры к определенным предельным срокам для сохранения страхового покрытия или помощи с расходами. Вы имеете право на бесплатное получение этой информации и помощи на вашем языке. Звоните по телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Español (Spanish):

Este Aviso contiene información importante. Es posible que este aviso contenga información importante acerca de su solicitud o cobertura a través de Premera Blue Cross. Es posible que haya fechas claves en este aviso. Es posible que deba tomar alguna medida antes de determinadas fechas para mantener su cobertura médica o ayuda con los costos. Usted tiene derecho a recibir esta información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Llame al 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Tagalog (Tagalog):

Ang Paunawa na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon. Ang paunawa na ito ay nagmamahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa iyong aplikasyon o pagsakop sa pamamagitan ng Premera Blue Cross. Maaaring mabahagi o pagsala sa mga pagsasaali ng Premera Blue Cross. Maaaring mabahagi o pagsala sa mga pagsasaali ng Premera Blue Cross.

ไทย (Thai):

ประกาศนี้มีสาระสำคัญ ประกาศนี้มีสาระสำคัญเกี่ยวกับการยื่นขอหรือการขอรับการช่วยเหลือของคุณผ่าน Premera Blue Cross และคุณจะได้รับการช่วยเหลือตามประกาศนี้ คุณจะได้รับการช่วยเหลือตามประกาศนี้ ในกรณีที่มีความคืบหน้า คุณสามารถติดต่อเราที่ โทร (800-722-1471) (TTY: 800-842-5357)

Polskie (Polish):


Português (Portuguese):

Este aviso contém informações importantes. Este aviso poderá conter informações importantes a respeito de sua aplicação ou cobertura por meio do Premera Blue Cross. Poderão existir datas importantes neste aviso. Talvez seja necessário que você tome providências dentro de determinados prazos para manter sua cobertura de saúde ou ajuda de custos. Você tem o direito de obter esta informação e ajuda em seu idioma e sem custos. Ligue para 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357) para obter assistência.

Újral (Ukrainian):

Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію. Це повідомлення може містити важливу інформацію про Ваше звернення щодо страхувального покриття через Premera Blue Cross. Зверніть увагу на ключові дати, які можуть бути вказані у цьому повідомленні. Існує імовірність того, що Вам треба буде зайнятися власні кроки у конкретні кінцеві строки для того, щоб зберегти Ваше медичне страхування або отримати фінансову допомогу. У Вас є право на отримання цієї інформації та допомоги безкоштовно на Вашій рідній мові. Дзвоніть за номером телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese):