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Update for National Coverage Determinations (NCD)

Stem Cell Transplant for Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reported on March 6, 2024 that the evidence is sufficient to determine whether to expand coverage for transplantation of blood stem cells from other people, using bone marrow, peripheral blood, or blood stem cell products, umbilical cord for patients with myelodysplastic syndromes, which are a group of cancers in which immature blood cells in the bone marrow do not mature or become healthy blood cells. This benefit is for myelodysplastic syndromes with prognostic risk scores of:

- a. ≥ 1.5 (Intermediate-2 or higher) using the International Prognostic Risk Scoring System, or
- b. ≥ 4.5 (high or very high) using the International Prognostic Risk Scoring System - Revised or
- c. ≥ 0.5 (high or very high) using the International Molecular Prognostic Risk Scoring System (IPSS-M)

Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified on October 11, 2023, that coverage of percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) of the carotid artery in combination with a carotid stent (small metal mesh tube that expands within a heart artery) or with an embolic protection device approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reasonable and necessary. This procedure is a minimally invasive one to unblock the coronary arteries and allow free circulation of blood to the heart muscle.

This benefit will be considered for Medicare beneficiaries under the following conditions:

- a. Patients with symptomatic carotid artery stenosis $\geq 50\%$; and
- b. Patients with asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis $\geq 70\%$.

For both conditions (A-B) the beneficiary must comply with the following:

1. A neurological evaluation should be performed before and after placement of a stent (small metal mesh tube that expands into a heart artery) in the carotid artery, completed by a

2. neurologist or health care professional certified on the stroke scale, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
3. First-line evaluation of carotid artery stenosis should use duplex ultrasound.
4. Computed tomography angiography or magnetic resonance angiography, if not contraindicated, should be used to confirm the degree of stenosis, and provide additional information about the aortic arch and extra- and intracranial circulation.
5. Intra-arterial digital subtraction angiography (catheter) can be used only when there is a significant discrepancy between the results of non-invasive imaging, or if computed tomography angiography or magnetic resonance angiography is contraindicated.

If you have any questions, you may contact the MCS Classicare Customer Service Call Center at 787.620.2530 (metro area) or toll-free at 1.866.627.8183. Hearing impaired persons (TTY) can call 1.866.627.8182. Our hours of operation are Monday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (October 1 - March 31) and Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (April 1 to September 30).

Cordially

MCS Classicare

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Multi-Language Insert

Multi-language Interpreter Services

English: We have free interpreter services to answer any questions you may have about our health or drug plan. To get an interpreter, just call us at 1-866-627-8183. Someone who speaks English/Language can help you. This is a free service.

Spanish: Tenemos servicios de intérprete sin costo alguno para responder cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre nuestro plan de salud o medicamentos. Para hablar con un intérprete, por favor llame al 1-866-627-8183. Alguien que hable español le podrá ayudar. Este es un servicio gratuito.

Chinese Mandarin: 我们提供免费的翻译服务，帮助您解答关于健康或药物保险的任何疑问。如果您需要此翻译服务，请致电 1-866-627-8183。我们的中文工作人员很乐意帮助您。这是一项免费服务。

Chinese Cantonese: 您對我們的健康或藥物保險可能存有疑問，為此我們提供免費的翻譯服務。如需翻譯服務，請致電 1-866-627-8183。我們講中文的人員將樂意為您提供幫助。這是一項免費服務。

Tagalog: Mayroon kaming libreng serbisyo sa pagsasaling-wika upang masagot ang anumang mga katanungan ninyo hinggil sa aming planong pangkalusugan o panggagamot. Upang makakuha ng tagasaling-wika, tawagan lamang kami sa 1-866-627-8183. Maaari kayong tulungan ng isang nakakapagsalita ng Tagalog. Ito ay libreng serbisyo.

French: Nous proposons des services gratuits d'interprétation pour répondre à toutes vos questions relatives à notre régime de santé ou d'assurance-médicaments. Pour accéder au service d'interprétation, il vous suffit de nous appeler au 1-866-627-8183. Un interlocuteur parlant Français pourra vous aider. Ce service est gratuit.

Vietnamese: Chúng tôi có dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí để trả lời các câu hỏi về chương sức khỏe và chương trình thuốc men. Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên xin gọi 1-866-627-8183 sẽ có nhân viên nói tiếng Việt giúp đỡ quý vị. Đây là dịch vụ miễn phí.

German: Unser kostenloser Dolmetscherservice beantwortet Ihren Fragen zu unserem Gesundheits- und Arzneimittelplan. Unsere Dolmetscher erreichen Sie unter 1-866-627-8183. Man wird Ihnen dort auf Deutsch weiterhelfen. Dieser Service ist kostenlos.

Korean: 당사는 의료 보험 또는 약품 보험에 관한 질문에 답해 드리고자 무료 통역 서비스를 제공하고 있습니다. 통역 서비스를 이용하려면 전화 1-866-627-8183 번으로 문의해 주십시오. 한국어를 하는 담당자가 도와 드릴 것입니다. 이 서비스는 무료로 운영됩니다.

Russian: Если у вас возникнут вопросы относительно страхового или медикаментного плана, вы можете воспользоваться нашими бесплатными услугами переводчиков. Чтобы воспользоваться услугами переводчика, позвоните нам по телефону 1-866-627-8183. Вам окажет помощь сотрудник, который говорит по-русски. Данная услуга бесплатная.

Arabic: إننا نقدم خدمات المترجم الفوري المجانية للإجابة عن أي أسئلة تتعلق بالصحة أو جدول الأدوية لدينا. للحصول على مترجم فوري، ليس عليك سوى الاتصال بنا على 1-3818726668. سيقوم شخص ما يتحدث العربية بمساعدتك. هذه خدمة مجانية.

Hindi: हमारे स्वास्थ्य या दवा की योजना के बारे में आपके किसी भी प्रश्न के जवाब देने के लिए हमारे पास मुफ्त दुभाषिया सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं. एक दुभाषिया प्राप्त करने के लिए, बस हमें 1-866-627-8183 पर फोन करें. कोई व्यक्ति जो हिन्दी बोलता है आपकी मदद कर सकता है. यह एक मुफ्त सेवा है.

Italian: È disponibile un servizio di interpretariato gratuito per rispondere a eventuali domande sul nostro piano sanitario e farmaceutico. Per un interprete, contattare il numero 1-866-627-8183. Un nostro incaricato che parla Italianovi fornirà l'assistenza necessaria. È un servizio gratuito.

Portugués: Dispomos de serviços de interpretação gratuitos para responder a qualquer questão que tenha acerca do nosso plano de saúde ou de medicação. Para obter um intérprete, contacte-nos através do número 1-866-627-8183. Irá encontrar alguém que fale o idioma Português para o ajudar. Este serviço é gratuito.

French Creole: Nou genyen sèvis entèprèt gratis pou reponn tout kesyon ou ta genyen konsènan plan medikal oswa dwòg nou an. Pou jwenn yon entèprèt, jis rele nou nan 1-866-627-8183. Yon moun ki pale Kreyòl kapab ede w. Sa a se yon sèvis ki gratis.

Polish: Umożliwiamy bezpłatne skorzystanie z usług tłumacza ustnego, który pomoże w uzyskaniu odpowiedzi na temat planu zdrowotnego lub dawkowania leków. Aby skorzystać z pomocy tłumacza znającego język polski, należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-866-627-8183. Ta usługa jest bezpłatna.

Japanese: 当社の健康 健康保険と薬品 処方薬プランに関するご質問にお答えするために、無料の通訳サービスがあります。通訳をご用命になるには、1-866-627-8183 にお電話ください。日本語を話す人者が支援いたします。これは無料のサービスです。