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**NC Division of Medical Assistance
Hematopoietic Stem-Cell & Bone
Marrow Transplantation for
Central Nervous System (CNS)
Embryonal Tumors & Ependymoma**

**Medicaid and Health Choice
Clinical Coverage Policy No: 11A-10
Amended Date: March 1, 2017**

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Related Clinical Coverage Policies

Refer to <https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/> for the related coverage policies listed below:
11A-15, Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation for Solid Tumors of Childhood

1.0 Description of the Procedure, Product, or Service

Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation

Hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (HSCT) refers to a procedure in which hematopoietic stem cells are infused to restore bone marrow function in cancer patients who receive bone-marrow-toxic doses of cytotoxic drugs. Bone-marrow stem cells may be obtained from the transplant recipient (i.e., autologous SCT) or from a donor (i.e., allogeneic SCT). They can be harvested from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood and placenta shortly after delivery of neonates.

Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation for Brain Tumors

Autologous HSCT allows for escalation of chemotherapy doses above those limited by myeloablation and has been tried in patients with high-risk brain tumors in an attempt to eradicate residual tumor cells and improve cure rates. The use of allogeneic HSCT for solid tumors does not rely on escalation of chemotherapy intensity and tumor reduction, but rather on a graft-versus-tumor effect. Allogeneic HSCT is uncommonly used in solid tumors, and may be used if an autologous source cannot be cleared of tumor or cannot be harvested.

CNS Embryonal Tumors

Classification of brain tumors is based on both histopathologic characteristics of the tumor and location in the brain. Central nervous system (CNS) embryonal tumors are more common in children and are the most common brain tumor in childhood. They are primarily composed of undifferentiated round cells, with divergent patterns of differentiation. It has been proposed that these tumors be merged under the term “primitive neuroectodermal tumor” (PNET), however, histologically similar tumors in different locations in the brain demonstrate different molecular genetic alterations. Embryonal tumors of the CNS include medulloblastoma, medulloepithelioma, supratentorial PNETs (pineoblastoma, cerebral neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma), ependymoblastoma, and atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor (AT/RT).

Medulloblastomas account for 20% of all childhood CNS tumors. The other types of embryonal tumors are rare by comparison. Surgical resection is the mainstay of therapy with the goal being gross total resection with adjuvant radiation therapy, as medulloblastomas are very radiosensitive. Treatment protocols are based on risk stratification, as average or high risk. The average-risk group includes children older than 3 years, without metastatic disease, and with tumors that are totally or near totally resected (less than 1.5 cm² of residual disease). The high-risk group includes children aged 3 years or younger, or with metastatic disease, and/or subtotal resection (greater than 1.5 cm² of residual disease).

Current standard treatment regimens for average-risk medulloblastoma (postoperative craniospinal irradiation with boost to the posterior fossa followed by 12 months of chemotherapy) have resulted in 5-year overall survival (OS) rates of 80% or better. For high-risk medulloblastoma treated with conventional doses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the average event-free survival at 5 years ranges from 34%–40% across studies.

Fewer than 55% of children with high-risk disease survive longer than 5 years. The treatment of newly diagnosed medulloblastoma continues to evolve, and in children under the age of 3, because of the concern of the deleterious effects of craniospinal radiation on the immature nervous system, therapeutic approaches have attempted to delay and sometimes avoid the use of radiation, and have included trials of higher-dose chemotherapeutic regimens with autologous HSCT.

Supratentorial PNETs (sPNET) are most commonly located in the cerebral cortex and pineal region. The prognosis for these tumors is worse than for medulloblastoma, despite identical therapies. After surgery, children are usually treated similarly to children with high-risk medulloblastoma. Three- to 5-year OS rates of 40%–50% have been reported, and for patients with disseminated disease, survival rates at 5 years range from 20%–30%.

Recurrent childhood CNS embryonal tumor is not uncommon, and depending on which type of treatment the patient initially received, autologous HSCT may be an option. For patients who receive high-dose chemotherapy and autologous HSCT for recurrent embryonal tumors, objective response is 50%–75%; however, long-term disease control is obtained in fewer than 30% of patients, and is seen primarily in patients in first relapse with localized disease at the time of relapse.

Ependymoma

Ependymoma is a neuroepithelial tumor that arises from the ependymal lining cell of the ventricles and is, therefore, usually contiguous with the ventricular system. In children, the tumor typically arises intracranially, while in adults, a spinal cord location is more common. Ependymomas have access to the cerebrospinal fluid and may spread throughout the entire neuroaxis. Ependymomas are distinct from ependymoblastomas due to their more mature histologic differentiation. Initial treatment of ependymoma consists of maximal surgical resection followed by radiotherapy. Chemotherapy usually does not play a role in the initial treatment of ependymoma. However, disease relapse is common, typically occurring at the site of origin. Treatment of recurrence is problematic; further surgical resection or radiation therapy is usually not possible. Given the poor response to conventional-dose chemotherapy, high-dose chemotherapy with autologous HSCT has been investigated as a possible salvage therapy.

Note: Due to their neuroepithelial origin, peripheral neuroblastoma and Ewing's sarcoma may be considered PNETs. However, these peripheral tumors are considered separately in clinical coverage policy 11A-15 "*Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation for Solid Tumors of Childhood.*"

1.1 Definitions

None Apply.

2.0 Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Provisions

2.1.1 General

(The term “General” found throughout this policy applies to all Medicaid and NCHC policies)

- a. An eligible beneficiary shall be enrolled in either:
 1. the NC Medicaid Program (*Medicaid is NC Medicaid program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise*); or
 2. the NC Health Choice (*NCHC is NC Health Choice program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise*) Program on the date of service and shall meet the criteria in **Section 3.0 of this policy**.
- b. Provider(s) shall verify each Medicaid or NCHC beneficiary’s eligibility each time a service is rendered.
- c. The Medicaid beneficiary may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.
- d. Following is only one of the eligibility and other requirements for participation in the NCHC Program under GS 108A-70.21(a): Children must be between the ages of 6 through 18.

2.1.2 Specific

(The term “Specific” found throughout this policy only applies to this policy)

- a. **Medicaid**
None Apply.
- b. **NCHC**
None Apply.

2.2 Special Provisions

2.2.1 EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age

- a. **42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiary under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed practitioner).

This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his or her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary’s physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the

needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product or procedure:

1. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental or investigational.
2. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

b. EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

1. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.
2. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:

<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/>

2.2.2 EPSDT does not apply to NCHC beneficiaries

2.2.3 Health Choice Special Provision for a Health Choice Beneficiary age 6 through 18 years of age

The Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) shall deny the claim for coverage for an NCHC beneficiary who does not meet the criteria within **Section 3.0** of this policy. Only services included under the NCHC State Plan and the DMA clinical coverage policies, service definitions, or billing codes are covered for an NCHC beneficiary

3.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

3.1 General Criteria Covered

Medicaid and NCHC shall cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when medically necessary, and:

- a. the procedure, product, or service is individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs;
- b. the procedure, product, or service can be safely furnished, and no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- c. the procedure, product, or service is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker, or the provider.

3.2 Specific Criteria Covered

3.2.1 Specific criteria covered by both Medicaid and NCHC

Medicaid and NCHC shall cover autologous HSCT:

- a. When it is determined to be medically necessary as consolidation therapy for previously untreated embryonal tumors of the central nervous system (CNS) that show partial or complete response to induction chemotherapy, or stable disease after induction therapy (refer to Policy Guidelines in **Subsection 3.2.3**); or
- b. When it is determined to be medically necessary to treat recurrent embryonal tumors of the CNS.

3.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Covered

None Apply.

3.2.3 NCHC Additional Criteria Covered

None Apply.

3.2.4 Policy Guidelines

In general, use of autologous HSCT for previously untreated medulloblastoma has shown no survival benefit for those patients considered to be at average risk [i.e., patient age older than 3 years, without metastatic disease, and with total or near total surgical resection (less than 1.5 cm² residual tumor)] when compared to conventional therapies.

Data from single-arm studies using autologous HSCT to treat newly diagnosed CNS embryonal tumors has shown an improved survival benefit (both event-free and overall), particularly in patients with disease that is considered high-risk. In addition, the use of autologous HSCT has allowed for a reduction in the dose of radiation needed to treat both average and high-risk disease, with preservation of quality of life and intellectual functioning, without compromising survival.

Data from Phase III trials are not expected to alter these findings, as the three Phase III trials that are ongoing do not specifically compare the use of HSCT versus alternative therapies.

More data on the use of tandem transplants for CNS embryonal tumors are needed.

The use of HSCT for ependymoma has not shown a survival benefit compared to the use of conventional approaches.

4.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Not Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

4.1 General Criteria Not Covered

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when:

- a. the beneficiary does not meet the eligibility requirements listed in **Section 2.0**;
- b. the beneficiary does not meet the criteria listed in **Section 3.0**;
- c. the procedure, product, or service duplicates another provider's procedure, product, or service; or
- d. the procedure, product, or service is experimental, investigational, or part of a clinical trial.

4.2 Specific Criteria Not Covered

4.2.1 Specific Criteria Not Covered by both Medicaid and NCHC

Medicaid and NCHC do not cover HSCT or bone marrow transplantation in the following situations:

- a. Allogeneic hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation is investigational to treat embryonal tumors of the CNS;
- b. Tandem autologous hematopoietic stem-cell transplant is investigational to treat embryonal tumors of the CNS;
- c. Autologous, tandem autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic stem-cell transplant is investigational to treat ependymoma; and
- d. Other CNS tumors, including astrocytoma, oligodendroglioma, and glioblastoma multiforme, arise from **glial** cells and not neuroepithelial cells. Medicaid and NCHC do not cover HSCT for these diagnoses.

4.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Not Covered

None Apply.

4.2.3 NCHC Additional Criteria Not Covered

- a. NCGS § 108A-70.21(b) "Except as otherwise provided for eligibility, fees, deductibles, copayments, and other cost sharing charges, health benefits coverage provided to children eligible under the Program shall be equivalent

to coverage provided for dependents under North Carolina Medicaid Program except for the following:

1. No services for long-term care.
2. No nonemergency medical transportation.
3. No EPSDT.
4. Dental services shall be provided on a restricted basis in accordance with criteria adopted by the Department to implement this subsection.”

5.0 Requirements for and Limitations on Coverage

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

5.1 Prior Approval

Medicaid and NCHC shall require prior approval for HSCT and bone marrow transplantation for CNS embryonal tumors and ependymoma. The provider shall obtain prior approval before rendering HSCT and bone marrow transplantation for CNS embryonal tumors and ependymoma.

If prior approval has been given for HSCT, actual donor transplant-related medical expenses (**procuring, harvesting, short-term storing and all associated laboratory costs**) are covered.

5.2 Prior Approval Requirements

5.2.1 General

The provider(s) shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Utilization Review Contractor the following:

- a. the prior approval request; and
- b. all health records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy.

5.2.2 Specific

None Apply.

5.3 Specific Transplant Prior Approval Requirements

The provider(s) shall submit the following to the DMA transplant nurse consultant:

- a. Letter of medical necessity **signed by the attending transplant physician**, which documents regimens and dates, the social history and the transplant evaluation;
- b. All health care records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy including:
 1. Lab results (less than three months old) to include Complete Blood Count (CBC), complete electrolytes, liver enzymes, Prothrombin Time (PT), International Normalized Ratio (INR), glucose and A1C (Glycated Hemoglobin if Type I or Type II diabetic), and blood type;
 2. Serologies: to include Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis, Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR), Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV), Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Varicella, Rubella, Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) I/II, and

- toxoplasmosis. (*Positive* serology results may be reported that are greater than three months old);
3. Diagnostic studies (less than six months old) required in a complete packet include:
 - A. Cardiac: Echocardiogram, Electrocardiogram (ECG), and/or cardiac catheterization as appropriate for beneficiary's clinical status;
 - B. Pulmonary: Pulmonary Function Test if beneficiary has cardiac or pulmonary issues, or a history of smoking; and
 - C. Chest x-ray for all transplant candidates;
 4. Other diagnostic tests may be requested as appropriate;
 5. Beneficiary's height and weight
 6. All diagnostic and procedure results, including bone marrow aspiration (not more than six months old)
- c. Complete psychological and social evaluation to include:
 1. beneficiary's medical compliance;
 2. beneficiary's support network;
 3. post-transplant care plan, with identification of primary and secondary care providers; and
 4. history of mental health issues/substance use/legal issues
 - d. Beneficiaries with a psychiatric history are required to have an evaluation by a psychiatrist with expertise in evaluating the specific psychiatric issues that relate to transplant candidates.

6.0 Provider(s) Eligible to Bill for the Procedure, Product, or Service

To be eligible to bill for the procedure, product, or service related to this policy, the provider(s) shall:

- a. meet Medicaid or NCHC qualifications for participation;
- b. have a current and signed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Provider Administrative Participation Agreement; and
- c. bill only for procedures, products, and services that are within the scope of their clinical practice, as defined by the appropriate licensing entity.

6.1 Provider Qualifications and Occupational Licensing Entity Regulations

None Apply.

6.2 Provider Certifications

None Apply.

7.0 Additional Requirements

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

7.1 Compliance

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

- a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and
- b. All DMA's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, DHHS division(s) or fiscal contractor(s).
- c. FDA approved procedures, products, and devices for implantation must be utilized.
- d. A statement signed by the surgeon certifying all FDA requirements for the implants, products, and devices must be retained in the beneficiary's medical record and made available for review upon request.

8.0 Policy Implementation/Revision Information

Original Effective Date: January 1, 1994

Revision Information:

Date	Section Revised	Change
07/01/2005	Entire Policy	Medicaid: Policy was updated to include coverage criteria effective with approved date of State Plan amendment 4/1/05.
09/01/2105	Section 2.2	Medicaid: The special provision related to EPSDT was revised.
12/01/2005	Section 2.2	Medicaid: The web address for DMA's EDPST policy instructions was added to this section.
12/01/2006	Sections 2.2	Medicaid: The special provision related to EPSDT was revised.
12/01/2006	Sections 3.0 and 4.0	Medicaid: A note regarding EPSDT was added to these sections.
05/01/2007	Sections 2 through 4	Medicaid: EPSDT information was revised to clarify exceptions to policy limitations for recipients under 21 years of age.
05/01/2007	Attachment A	Medicaid: Added the UB-04 as an accepted claims form.
07/01/2010	Throughout	NCHC: Session Law 2009-451, Section 10.31(a) Transition of NC Health Choice Program administrative oversight from the State Health Plan to the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) in the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
03/12/2012	Throughout	NCHC: To be equivalent where applicable to NC DMA's Clinical Coverage Policy # 11A-10 under Session Law 2011-145, § 10.41.(b)
03/12/2012	Throughout	Policy updated to reflect Current Community standards and changing transplant protocols.
03/12/2012	Throughout	Technical changes to merge Medicaid and NCHC current coverage into one policy.
10/01/2015	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language and added ICD-10 codes to comply with federally mandated 10/1/2015 implementation where applicable.
03/01/2017	Attachment A, Section B	ICD-10 updated codes revised.

Attachment A: Claims-Related Information

Provider(s) shall comply with the, *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, Medicaid bulletins, fee schedules, DMA's clinical coverage policies and any other relevant documents for specific coverage and reimbursement for Medicaid and NCHC:

A. Claim Type

Professional (CMS-1500/837P transaction)

B. Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revisions, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and Procedural Coding System (PCS)

Provider(s) shall report the ICD-10-CM and Procedural Coding System (PCS) to the highest level of specificity that supports medical necessity. Provider(s) shall use the current ICD-10 edition and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

ICD-10 Procedure Code(s)			
30230AZ	30233Y4	30243Y0	30253Y1
30230G0	30240AZ	30243Y4	30260G0
30230G4	30240G0	30250G0	30260G1
30230Y0	30240G4	30250G1	30260Y0
30230Y4	30240Y0	30250Y0	30260Y1
30233AZ	30240Y4	30250Y1	30263G0
30233G0	30243AZ	30253G0	30263G1
30233G4	30243G0	30253G1	30263Y0
30233Y0	30243G4	30253Y0	30263Y1

C. Code(s)

Provider(s) shall report the most specific billing code that accurately and completely describes the procedure, product or service provided. Provider(s) shall use the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (for a complete listing of valid revenue codes) and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for the code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

If no such specific CPT or HCPCS code exists, then the provider(s) shall report the procedure, product or service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code.

CPT Code
38205
38206
38230
38232
38240

38241
38242

HCPCS Code
S2150

Unlisted Procedure or Service

CPT: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of the CPT Codebook, Unlisted Procedure or Service, and Special Report as documented in the current CPT in effect at the time of service.

HCPCS: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions For Use of HCPCS National Level II codes, Unlisted Procedure or Service and Special Report as documented in the current HCPCS edition in effect at the time of service.

D. Modifiers

Provider(s) shall follow applicable modifier guidelines.

E. Billing Units

Provider(s) shall report the appropriate code(s) used which determines the billing unit(s).

F. Place of Service

Inpatient hospital, Outpatient hospital

G. Co-payments

For Medicaid refer to Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 4.18-A, page 1, located at <https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/>.

For NCHC refer to G.S. 108A-70.21(d), located at http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_108A/GS_108A-70.21.html.

H. Reimbursement

Providers shall bill their usual and customary charges.

For a schedule of rates, see: <https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/>

I. Billing for Donor Expenses

1. Billing for Donor Expenses for Medicaid Beneficiaries

Donor transplant-related medical expenses are billed on the Medicaid beneficiary's transplant claim using the beneficiary's Medicaid identification number.

Medicaid reimburses only for the actual donor's transplant-related medical expenses. Medicaid does not reimburse for unsuccessful donor searches.

2. Billing for Donor Expenses for NCHC Beneficiaries

Donor transplant-related medical expenses donors are billed on the NCHC beneficiary's transplant claim.

NCHC reimburses only for the actual donor's transplant-related medical expenses. NCHC does not reimburse for unsuccessful donor searches.