



Hemodialysis for the Treatment of Schizophrenia

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Introduction & Instructions for Use

Introduction

Medicare Coverage Summaries are a set of objective and evidence-based behavioral health criteria used by medical necessity plans to standardize coverage determinations, promote evidence-based practices, and support members’ recovery, resiliency, and wellbeing for Medicare behavioral health benefit plans managed by Optum® .

Instructions for Use

This guideline is used to make coverage determinations as well as to inform discussions about evidence-based practices and discharge planning for behavioral health benefit plans managed by Optum. When deciding coverage, the member’s specific benefits must be referenced.

All reviewers must first identify member eligibility, the member-specific benefit plan coverage, and any federal or state regulatory requirements that supersede the member’s benefits prior to using this guideline. In the event that the requested service or procedure is limited or excluded from the benefit, is defined differently or there is otherwise a conflict between this guideline and the member’s specific benefit, the member’s specific benefit supersedes this guideline. Other clinical criteria may apply. Optum reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its clinical criteria as necessary using the process described in Clinical Criteria.

This guideline is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

Optum may also use tools developed by third parties that are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice. Optum may develop clinical criteria or adopt externally-developed clinical criteria that supersede this guideline when required to do so by contract or regulation.

Hemodialysis for the Treatment of Schizophrenia

Hemodialysis/dialysis is a method for removing waste products from the body. In hemodialysis, blood passes through an artificial kidney machine and the waste products diffuse across a manmade membrane into a bath solution known as dialysate; after which the cleansed blood is returned to the patient’s body (CMS Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11; § 10A).

This Medicare Coverage Summary is based on the following CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), and is applicable to all states.

- (CMS NCD 130.8) Hemodialysis for the Treatment of Schizophrenia

Limitations and Exclusions

Scientific evidence supporting the use of Hemodialysis as a safe and effective means of treatment for Schizophrenia is inconclusive at this time. Accordingly, Medicare does not cover hemodialysis for the treatment of schizophrenia.

References

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. National Coverage Determination, Hemodialysis for Treatment of Schizophrenia, 130.8. CMS website: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=68&ncdver=1&DocID=130.8&bc=gAAAAAgAAAA&>.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2016). Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11, § 10A Dialysis. CMS website: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c11.pdf>

Revision History

Date	Summary of Changes
April 20, 2020	Annual review
April 19, 2021	Annual review
April 19, 2022	Annual review
April 18, 2023	Annual review