

JRF ORTHO – INSURANCE ASSISTANCE DOCUMENT

Summary of medical criteria for OCAs

BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota

Policy Title: Autografts and Allografts in the Treatment of Focal Articular Cartilage Lesions

Effective Date: 10/29/2018

Policy #: IV-115-006

	Criteria for medical necessity
Medical Evaluation	NR
Cartilage defect size	Greater than or equal to 1.5 cm ² in total area (i.e. length x width)
Cartilage defect characterization	Focal, full thickness (modified Outerbridge grade III or IV) cartilage lesions on the weight-bearing surface of the femoral condyles (medial or lateral) or trochlea
Cause of defect	Acute or repetitive trauma
Lesion (defect) and surrounding cartilage	Documented minimal to absent degenerative changes in the surrounding articular cartilage (modified Outerbridge grade II or less) and normal appearing hyaline cartilage surrounding the border of the defect
Patient demographic	Patient is an adult OR a skeletally mature adolescent with documented closure of growth plates (e.g., 15 years or older)
Patient condition	Presence of persistent symptoms (e.g., pain, swelling and catching/locking) that significantly limit activities of daily living;
Prior treatment	Patients who have had an inadequate response to a prior surgical procedure (e.g., debridement, subchondral drilling, abrasion arthroscopy, microfracture) or are not candidates for such procedures
Joint health	NR
Knee stability	Presence of stable ligaments (if ligaments are unstable, documentation should be provided as to how this condition will be addressed) No malalignment present (if malalignment is present, documentation should indicate planned concurrent correction of alignment)
Patient compliance	NR
OCA for other joints	Osteochondral allograft transplantation for joints other than the knee, including but not limited to the talus, patella, or tibia are considered experimental/investigational. Osteochondral allografting for articular cartilage defects of the knee that do not meet medical necessary criteria above is considered experimental/investigative