

## JRF ORTHO – INSURANCE ASSISTANCE DOCUMENT

### Summary of medical criteria for OCAs

Anthem BlueCross BlueShield (CO, CT, GA, IN, KY, ME, MI, MO, NV, NH, OH, VA, WI)

Policy Title: Treatment of Osteochondral Defects

Last Review: 11/02/2017

Policy #: CG-SURG-67

	<b>Criteria for medical necessity</b>
<b>Medical Evaluation</b>	Arthroscopic or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examination results detailing size, location and type of osteochondral defect
<b>Cartilage defect size</b>	Greater than or equal to 2 cm <sup>2</sup> (i.e. length x width) in total area
<b>Cartilage defect characterization</b>	Focal, full thickness (grade III or IV), isolated defect of the weight bearing surface of the medial or lateral femoral condyles or trochlear region (trochlear groove of the femur)
<b>Cause of defect</b>	Acute or repetitive trauma
<b>Lesion (defect) and surrounding cartilage</b>	Lesion must be discrete, single, and unipolar (only one side of the joint; “kissing lesions” are an exclusion) Lesion largely contained with near normal surrounding articular cartilage and articulating cartilage, (Grades 0, 1, 2)
<b>Patient demographic</b>	Skeletally mature adolescent with documented closure of growth plates or adult Body Mass Index (BMI) less than or equal to 35 No history of cancer in bones, cartilage, fat or muscle in the affected limb
<b>Patient condition</b>	Persistent symptoms of disabling localized knee pain for at least 6 months
<b>Prior treatment</b>	Failed to respond to conservative treatment
<b>Joint health</b>	Normal joint space present No active infection is present No inflammation or osteoarthritis present in the joint
<b>Knee stability</b>	Knee is stable with functionally intact menisci and ligaments and normal alignment Corrective procedures (e.g. ligament or tendon repair, osteotomy for realignment, meniscal allograft transplant or repair) may be performed in combination with or prior to transplantation
<b>Patient compliance</b>	Patient is willing and able to comply with post-operative weight-bearing restrictions and rehabilitation
<b>OCA for other joints</b>	Use of autologous chondrocyte transplantation, osteochondral allograft transplantation, or osteochondral autograft transplantation (OATS/mosaicplasty) for joints other than the knee is considered investigational and not medically necessary, including but not limited to the ankle (talus).