

JRF ORTHO – INSURANCE ASSISTANCE DOCUMENT

Summary of medical criteria for OCAs

BlueCross BlueShield of Rhode Island

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

Effective Date: 11/01/2015

Policy Last Updated: 12/06/2016

Overview of Policy: Osteochondral autografts (a tissue graft transferred from one part of the patient's body to another part) and allografts (a graft of tissue between individuals of the same species but of disparate genotype; types of donors are cadaveric, living related, and living unrelated) are used in repair of full-thickness chondral defects involving the joint. In the case of autografts, one or more small osteochondral plugs are harvested from non-weight-bearing sites in the knee and press fit into a prepared site in the lesion. Allografts are typically used for larger lesions to reduce donor site morbidity.

- Prior-authorization not required
- No reported medical criteria

	Suggested Criteria for medical necessity
Medical Evaluation	NR
Cartilage defect size	Large full thickness chondral defect (e.g. 10cm ² *)
Cartilage defect characterization	Focal, full-thickness (grade III or IV) unipolar lesions on the weight-bearing surface of the femoral condyles or trochlea that are between 1 and 2.5 cm ² * in size
Cause of defect	acute or repetitive trauma
Lesion (defect) and surrounding cartilage	Documented minimal to absent degenerative changes in the surrounding articular cartilage (Outerbridge grade II or less), and normal-appearing hyaline cartilage surrounding the border of the defect
Patient demographic	Adolescent patients should be skeletally mature with documented closure of growth plates (e.g., 15 years or older). Adult patients should be too young to be considered an appropriate candidate for total knee arthroplasty or other reconstructive knee surgery (e.g., younger than 55 years)
Patient condition	NR
Prior treatment	NR
Joint health	NR
Knee stability	Normal knee biomechanics, or alignment and stability achieved concurrently with osteochondral grafting
Patient compliance	NR
OCA for other joints	For all other indications, osteochondral grafts are considered not medically necessary

*Believe to be discrepancy in policy. Contact insurance provider for clarification.