

# JRF ORTHO – INSURANCE ASSISTANCE DOCUMENT

## Summary of medical criteria for OCAs

BlueShield CA

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

Original Date: 01/11/2013

Effective Date: 06/1/2018

Policy #: 7.01.78

	Criteria for medical necessity (Fresh Osteochondral Allografts)		
	Knee	Talus	Talus
<b>Medical Evaluation</b>	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cartilage defect size</b>	Full-thickness chondral defects of the knee	Large (area greater than 1.5 cm <sup>2</sup> ) or cystic (volume greater than 3.0 cm <sup>3</sup> ) osteochondral lesions of the talus	Large (area greater than 1.5 cm <sup>2</sup> ) or cystic (volume greater than 3.0 cm <sup>3</sup> ) osteochondral lesions of the talus
<b>Cartilage defect characterization</b>	NR	NR	NR
<b>Cause of defect</b>	Acute or repetitive trauma	NR	NR
<b>Lesion (defect) and surrounding cartilage</b>	NR	NR	NR
<b>Patient demographic</b>	Severe obesity (e.g. body mass index > 35 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) may affect outcomes due to the increased stress on weight-bearing surfaces of the joint.		
<b>Patient condition</b>	When other cartilage repair techniques (e.g., microfracture, osteochondral autografting or autologous chondrocyte implantation) would be inadequate due to lesion size, location, or depth	When autografting would be inadequate due to lesion size, depth, or location	When autografting would be inadequate due to lesion size, depth, or location
<b>Prior treatment</b>	If débridement is the only prior surgical treatment, consideration should be given to marrow-stimulating techniques before osteochondral grafting is performed, particularly for lesions less than 1.5 cm <sup>2</sup> in area or 3.0 cm <sup>3</sup> in volume.		Revision surgery after failed prior marrow stimulation
<b>Joint health</b>	NR	NR	NR
<b>Knee stability</b>	Misalignment and instability of the joint are contraindications. Therefore, additional procedures, such as repair of ligaments or tendons or creation of an osteotomy for realignment of the joint, may be performed at the same time. Meniscal allograft transplantation may be performed in combination, either concurrently or sequentially, with osteochondral allografting or osteochondral autografting.		
<b>Patient compliance</b>	NR	NR	NR
<b>OCA for other joints</b>	Osteochondral allografting or autografting for all other joints, and any indications other than those listed above, is considered investigational.		

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#### **Required Documentation**

- 1. History and physical and/or consultation notes including the following**
  - Description of the knee structure (e.g. articular cartilage defects (including grade) and surrounding articular cartilage degeneration changes
  - Knee biomechanics (e.g. stability and alignment) on physical exam
  - Documented closure of growth plates (if applicable)
  - Reason patient is not a candidate for TKA
  - Prior treatment (surgical and non-surgical) and patient response(s)
  - Reason for requested procedure and planned treatment
- 2. Progress notes specific to the condition and request (if applicable)**
- 3. Diagnostic radiology reports (including Outerbridge classification)**