

Medical Policies and Clinical Utilization Management Guidelines update

The *Medical Policies*, *Clinical Utilization Management (UM) Guidelines*, and *Third-Party Criteria* below were developed and/or revised to support clinical coding edits. Note, several policies and guidelines were revised to provide clarification only and are not included. Existing precertification requirements have not changed.

Please share this notice with other members of your practice and office staff.

To view a guideline, visit <https://www.empireblue.com/provider/policies/clinical-guidelines/search>.

Notes/updates

Updates marked with an asterisk (*) denote that the criteria may be perceived as more restrictive.

- ***CG-LAB-19 — Laboratory Evaluation of Vitamin B12:**
 - Outlines the *Medically Necessary* and *Not Medically Necessary* criteria for the use of vitamin B12 blood test
- ***DME.00044 — Wheelchair Mounted Robotic Arm:**
 - The use of a wheelchair mounted robotic arm is considered *Investigational and Not Medically Necessary* for all uses
- ***MED.00138 — Wearable Devices for Stress Relief and Management:**
 - Wearable devices for management, monitoring or prevention of stress and stress-related conditions are considered *Investigational and Not Medically Necessary* for all indications
- ***CG-MED-53 — Cervical Cancer Screening Using Cytology and Human Papillomavirus Testing:**
 - Removed criteria addressing chronically immunosuppressed individuals
- ***CG-MED-81 — Ultrasound Ablation for Oncologic Indications:**
 - Added *Not Medically Necessary* statement for TULSA
- ***CG-SURG-78 — Locoregional and Surgical Techniques for Treating Primary and Metastatic Liver Malignancies:**
 - Revised the clinical indications to add a *Not Medically Necessary* statement for histotripsy
- ***MED.00099 — Navigational Bronchoscopy:**
 - Removed the word “Electromagnetic” in the Position Statement
- ***SURG.00010 — Treatments for Urinary Incontinence:**
 - Added new criterion to *Investigational and Not Medically Necessary* statement on endovaginal cryogen-cooled, monopolar radiofrequency remodeling
 - Added “as treatments for urinary incontinence” to *Investigational and Not Medically Necessary* statement and removed wording on urinary incontinence
- ***SURG.00097 — Scoliosis Surgery:**
 - Added “minimally invasive deformity correction system” to the Scope and Position Statement

Medical Policies

On November 11, 2021, the Medical Policy and Technology Assessment Committee (MPTAC) approved the following *Medical Policies* applicable to Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire). These guidelines take effect April 7, 2022.

Publish date	Medical Policy number	Medical Policy title	New or revised
12/29/2021	*DME.00044	<i>Wheelchair Mounted Robotic Arm</i>	New
12/29/2021	*MED.00138	<i>Wearable Devices for Stress Relief and Management</i>	New
11/18/2021	GENE.00052	<i>Whole Genome Sequencing, Whole Exome Sequencing, Gene Panels, and Molecular Profiling</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	*MED.00099	<i>Navigational Bronchoscopy</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	*SURG.00010	<i>Treatments for Urinary Incontinence</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	SURG.00011	<i>Allogeneic, Xenographic, Synthetic, Bioengineered, and Composite Products for Wound Healing and Soft Tissue Grafting</i>	Revised
11/18/2021	SURG.00026	<i>Deep Brain, Cortical, and Cerebellar Stimulation</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	SURG.00037	<i>Treatment of Varicose Veins (Lower Extremities)</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	*SURG.00097	<i>Scoliosis Surgery</i>	Revised

Clinical UM Guidelines

On November 11, 2021, the MPTAC approved the following *Clinical UM Guidelines* applicable to Empire. These guidelines adopted by the medical operations committee for Medicaid Managed Care members on December 16, 2021. These guidelines take effect April 7, 2022.

Publish date	Clinical UM Guideline number	Clinical UM Guideline title	New or revised
12/29/2021	*CG-LAB-19	<i>Laboratory Evaluation of Vitamin B12</i>	New
12/29/2021	CG-DME-06	<i>Compression Devices for Lymphedema</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	*CG-MED-53	<i>Cervical Cancer Screening Using Cytology and Human Papillomavirus Testing</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	*CG-MED-81	<i>Ultrasound Ablation for Oncologic Indications</i>	Revised
11/18/2021	CG-OR-PR-05	<i>Myoelectric Upper Extremity Prosthetic Devices</i>	Revised
12/29/2021	*CG-SURG-78	<i>Locoregional and Surgical Techniques for Treating Primary and Metastatic Liver Malignancies</i>	Revised



Email is the quickest and most direct way to receive important information from Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus.

To start receiving email from us (including some sent in lieu of fax or mail), submit your information using the QR code to the right or via our online form (<https://bit.ly/3zqQdYB>).

