Policy: MP133
Section: Medical Benefit Policy
Subject: Meniscal Allograft Transplantation

I. Policy: Meniscal Allograft Transplantation

II. Purpose/Objective:
To provide a policy of coverage regarding Meniscal Allograft Transplantation

III. Responsibility:
A. Medical Directors
B. Medical Management

IV. Required Definitions
1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

V. Additional Definitions
Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member’s condition, illness, disease or injury;
b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member’s condition, illness disease or injury;
c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member’s Health Care Provider; and
e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member’s condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

Medicaid Business Segment
Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

(i) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
(ii) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
(iii) The service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional
capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age.

DESCRIPTION:
Meniscal allograft transplantation is a surgical procedure that is proposed as a treatment to restore knee function in a subset of patients with damaged or absent menisci by replacing the damaged menisci with tissue obtained from a suitable cadaver donor.

INDICATIONS:
Meniscal allograft transplantation when obtained from a suitable cadaver is considered to be medically necessary to restore knee function when the following criteria are met:

- Patients with damaged or absent menisci with more than half of the meniscus missing.
- Patients should be skeletally matured with documentation of closure of the growth plates but also considered too young for other reconstructive knee surgery such as total knee arthroplasty.
- Persistent activity-related pain that is refractive to conservative therapy
- Minimal to no arthritis
- Patient is not considered to be obese (BMI of 40 kg/m² or greater)

EXCLUSIONS: The Plan does NOT provide coverage for collagen meniscus implant because it is considered experimental, investigational or unproven. The Geisinger Technology Assessment Committee evaluated this technology and concluded that there is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of this test on health outcomes when compared to established tests or technologies.

Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.

CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:
The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at www.cms.gov or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.

29868 meniscal transplantation, medial or lateral, any method
G0428 Collagen meniscus implant procedure for filling meniscal defects


LINE OF BUSINESS:
Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD’s and NCD’s will supersede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.

REFERENCES:
ECRI, HTAIS Hotline, Meniscal Allograft Transplantation for Damaged or Removed Meniscus. 7/16/04. (40 References)
Winifred S. Hayes, Hayes Inc. Online. Meniscal Allograft. MENI0502.03 April 2004. (39 References)
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, Health Technology Assessment, Meniscal Allograft. 10/22/02.


Noyes, FR, Barber-Westin, SD, and Rankin, M. Meniscal transplantation in symptomatic patients less than fifty years old. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2004; 87(Suppl 1(Pt 2)):149-165.


ECRI Institute.hotline. Meniscal Allograft Transplantation for Treating Damaged or Removed Meniscus. 12/21/2011


This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

Devised: 4/05

Revised: 11/11, 4/14 (elaborated on criteria)

Reviewed: 12/06, 1/08, 4/15, 4/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/19