

2025 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - Standard and Basic Option
Section 5(b). Surgical and Anesthesia Services Provided by Physicians and Other Healthcare Professionals
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Benefit Description

Organ and Tissue Transplants

Solid organ/tissue transplants are subject to medical necessity and experimental/investigational review. For the solid organ transplants listed below, you must obtain prior approval from the Local Plan for the procedures, and you must obtain precertification for the facility. (See precertification and prior approval in Section 3.)

- Heart transplant
- Heart-lung transplant
- Kidney transplant
- Liver transplant
- Pancreas transplant
- Combination liver-kidney transplant
- Combination pancreas-kidney transplant
- Autologous pancreas islet cell transplant (as an adjunct to total or near total pancreatectomy) only for patients with chronic pancreatitis
- Intestinal transplants (small intestine) and the small intestine with the liver or small intestine with multiple organs such as the liver, stomach, and pancreas
- Single, double, or lobar lung transplant
 - Benefits for lung transplantation are limited to double lung transplants for members with end-stage cystic fibrosis.
- Implantation of an artificial heart as a bridge to transplant or destination therapy

Standard Option - You Pay

Preferred: 15% of the Plan allowance (deductible applies)

Participating: 35% of the Plan allowance (deductible applies)

Non-participating: 35% of the Plan allowance (deductible applies), plus any difference between our allowance and the billed amount

Basic Option - You Pay

Preferred: \$150 copayment per performing surgeon, for surgical procedures performed in an office setting

Preferred: \$200 copayment per performing surgeon, for surgical procedures performed in all other settings

Note: Your provider will document the place of service when filing your claim for the procedure(s). Please contact the provider if you have any questions about the place of service.

Note: If you receive the services of a co-surgeon, you pay a separate copayment for those services, based on where the surgical procedure is performed. No additional copayment applies to the services of assistant surgeons.

Participating/Non-participating: You pay all charges

Note: **Solid Organ transplants** must be performed in a facility with a Medicare-Approved Transplant Program for the type of transplant anticipated. Transplants involving more than one organ must be performed in a facility that offers a Medicare-Approved Transplant Program for each organ transplanted.

Note: If Medicare does not offer an approved program for a certain type of organ transplant procedure, this requirement does not apply, and you may use any covered facility that performs the procedure.

Note: If Medicare offers an approved program for an anticipated organ transplant, but your facility is not approved by Medicare for the procedure, please contact your Local Plan at the customer service phone number on the back of your ID card.

All the following blood or marrow stem cell transplants - Prior approval is required and must be performed in a facility with a transplant program accredited by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), or in a facility designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants or as a Cancer Research Facility. See Section 3 for more information about these types of facilities.

Not every facility provides transplant services for every type of transplant procedure or condition listed or is designated or accredited for every covered transplant. Benefits are not provided for a covered transplant procedure unless the facility is specifically designated or accredited to perform that procedure. Before scheduling a transplant, call your Local Plan at the customer service phone number listed on the back of your ID card for assistance in locating an eligible facility and requesting prior approval for transplant services for the diagnoses as indicated below:

Physicians consider many features to determine how diseases will respond to different types of treatments. Some of the features measured are the presence or absence of normal and abnormal chromosomes, the extension of the disease throughout the body, and how fast the tumor cells grow.

By analyzing these and other characteristics, physicians can determine which diseases may respond to treatment without transplant and which diseases may respond to transplant.

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