

2025 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - Standard and Basic Option**Section 3. How You Get Care****Page 23**

Some blood or marrow stem cell transplants listed in Section 5(b) 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. Other **transplant procedures listed in Section 5(b)** must be performed at a FACT-accredited facility. We described these types of facilities earlier in this section.

Not every transplant program 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.

- **Clinical trials for certain blood or marrow stem cell transplants** – In Section 5(b) we provide the list of conditions covered **only** in clinical trials. Contact us at the customer service phone number on the back of your ID card for information or to request prior approval before obtaining services. We will request the medical evidence we need to make our coverage determination.

Even though we may state benefits are available for a specific type of clinical trial, you may not be eligible for inclusion in these trials or there may not be any trials available in a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants to treat your condition. If your physician has recommended you receive a transplant or that you participate in a transplant clinical trial, we encourage you to contact the Case Management Department at your Local Plan.

Note: For the purposes of the blood or marrow stem cell clinical trial transplants covered under this Plan, a clinical trial is a research study whose protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the FACT-accredited facility, Blue Distinction Center for Transplants, or Cancer Research Facility where the procedure is to be performed.

- **Transplant travel** – We reimburse costs for transportation (air, rail, bus, and/or taxi) and lodging if you live 50 miles or more from the facility, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per transplant for the member and companions. If the transplant recipient is age 21 or younger, we pay up to \$10,000 for eligible travel costs for the member and companions. Reimbursement is subject to IRS regulations.
- **Prescription drugs and supplies** – **Certain prescription drugs and supplies require prior approval.** Contact CVS Caremark, our Pharmacy Program administrator, at 800-624-5060, TTY: 711, to request prior approval, or to obtain a list of drugs and supplies that require prior

approval. We will request the information we need to make our coverage determination. You must periodically renew prior approval for certain drugs. See Section 5(f) for more information about our prescription drug prior approval program, which is part of our Patient Safety and Quality Monitoring (PSQM) program.

Please note that updates to the list of drugs and supplies requiring prior approval are made periodically during the year. New drugs and supplies may be added to the list and prior approval criteria may change. Changes to the prior approval list or to prior approval criteria are not considered benefit changes.

Note: Until we approve them, you must pay for these drugs in full when you purchase them – even if you purchase them at a Preferred retail pharmacy or through our Specialty Drug Pharmacy Program – and submit the expense(s) to us on a claim form. Preferred pharmacies will not file these claims for you.

Standard Option members may use our Mail Service Prescription Drug Program to fill their prescriptions. **Basic Option** members with primary Medicare Part B coverage also may use this program once prior approval is obtained.

Go to page [22](#). Go to page [24](#).