Public Statement:

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) are neoplasms of hematopoietic origin characterized by the accumulation of lymphocytes with a mature, generally well-differentiated morphology. In CLL, these cells accumulate in the blood, marrow, lymph nodes, and spleen, while in SLL they are generally confined to the lymph nodes. The Revised European-American/WHO Classification of Lymphoid Neoplasms considers B-cell CLL and SLL a single disease entity. Allogeneic stem cell transplant has been demonstrated to improve health outcomes in certain selected patients with CLL or SLL. This procedure requires authorization through case management by American Health Holding at 877-815-1017 (option 2).

Medical Policy Statement:

Allogeneic stem cell transplantation is covered for SLL or CLL only when the patient is determined to be a candidate according to NCCN Guidelines CSLL-4 for patients without del (11q) or del (17p), CSLL-5 for patients with del (17p), or CSLL-6 for patients with del(11q).

Limits:

ARBenefits reserves the right to alter, amend, change or supplement medical policies as needed. ARBenefits reviews and authorizes services and substances. CPT and HCPCS codes are listed as a convenience and any absent, new or changed codes do not alter the intent of the policy.
High dose chemotherapy with allogeneic stem and/or progenitor cell support is not covered following autologous stem and/or progenitor cell transplantation.

Tandem high dose chemotherapy with autologous stem and/or progenitor cell support is not covered for any diseases other than multiple myeloma and Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia.

A second or subsequent course of high dose chemotherapy with allogeneic or autologous stem cell and/or progenitor cell support for treatment of relapsed disease is covered only for patients who have shown a complete response to the initial high dose chemotherapy/transplant regimen.

Coverage of high dose chemotherapy with allogeneic or autologous stem and/or progenitor cell support for a patient with two active malignant diseases is covered only if both diseases have a specific coverage policy and the patient meets all criteria for both high dose chemotherapy with stem and/or progenitor cell treatment regimens.

References:

High-dose chemotherapy plus allogeneic stem cells to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia or small lymphocytic lymphoma. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Technology Evaluation Center Vol 17, tab 4.


NCCN Guidelines Version 4.2011 for CLL/SLL

Aetna’s Clinical Bulletin: High Dose Chemotherapy with Bone Marrow or Peripheral Stem Cell Transplant for Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma- CPB 494

Application to Products

This policy applies to ARBenefits. Consult ARBenefits Summary Plan Description (SPD) for additional information.

Last modified by: SCS Date: 10/25/2012