

MCG message

Title: **Outpatient surgical procedures policy**

Posting date: **4/24/2020**

Blue Cross Complete reimburses only those services that are furnished in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting for the member's medical needs and condition. This determination is based on the member's medical condition at the time the services are delivered, and any required monitoring or additional services that may coincide with the delivery of this service. The outpatient surgical center, is the most appropriate and cost-effective setting for the average-risk patient undergoing the following procedures:

- Anterior cervical fusion, one level
- Hip joint replacement
- Knee joint replacement
- Lumbar fusion, one level

These procedures require prior authorization, regardless of the setting in which they are performed.

A hospital outpatient surgical center is located in a hospital outpatient department where surgical and diagnostic procedures are performed on an ambulatory basis. The procedures and diagnostic services are unlikely to require a patient stay that exceeds 24 hours, and the complexity of the procedure is not expected to require immediate access to a hospital services-specific setting or postoperative inpatient setting.

Circumstances that will support performance of any of the above procedures in an inpatient setting:

- Age > 70
- Decreased functional status requiring inpatient rehab
- Medical comorbidities requiring inpatient management

Circumstances that will support performance of spinal fusion in an inpatient setting:

- Multilevel fusions

Historical findings that will support performance of joint replacement in an inpatient setting:

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Heart failure
- Coronary artery disease
- Cirrhosis



- End-stage renal disease
- Thromboembolic events
- Diabetes and HbA1c > 7%
- Opioid use disorder
- BMI > 40

The circumstances and historical findings listed above are not necessarily all-inclusive, and there may be other patient-specific circumstances or historical findings that will support performance of the procedure in an inpatient setting.

Questions:

If you have questions, please contact your Blue Cross Complete provider account executive or the Provider Inquiry at 1-888-513-5713.