

Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation

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Medical Guideline Disclaimer

The treating physician or primary care provider must submit to EmblemHealth the clinical evidence that the member meets the criteria for the treatment or surgical procedure. Without this documentation and information, EmblemHealth will not be able to properly review the request preauthorization or post-payment review. The clinical review criteria expressed below reflects how EmblemHealth determines whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary. This clinical policy is not intended to pre-empt the judgment of the reviewing medical director or dictate to health care providers how to practice medicine. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care.

EmblemHealth established the clinical review criteria based upon a review of currently available clinical information (including clinical outcome studies in the peer reviewed published medical literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors). EmblemHealth expressly reserves the right to revise these conclusions as clinical information changes and welcomes further relevant information. Each benefit program defines which services are covered. The conclusion that a particular service or supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered and/or paid for by EmblemHealth, as some programs exclude coverage for services or supplies that EmblemHealth considers medically necessary.

If there is a discrepancy between this guideline and a member's benefits program, the benefits program will govern. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests and procedures in a medical coverage policy is for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test or procedure over another. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a state, the Federal Government or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicare and Medicaid members. All coding and web site links are accurate at time of publication.

EmblemHealth may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. The MCG™ Care Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice. EmblemHealth Services Company, LLC, has adopted this policy in providing management, administrative and other services to EmblemHealth Plan, Inc., EmblemHealth Insurance Company, EmblemHealth Services Company, LLC, and Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York (HIP) related to health benefit plans offered by these entities. All of the aforementioned entities are affiliated companies under common control of EmblemHealth Inc.

Background

Chronic pancreatitis is a complex disease that originates from a variety of causes. Progressive inflammation of acinar tissue may affect endocrine tissue function, thereby progressively damaging the islets of Langerhans, resulting in diabetes. The course of the disease is often punctuated by repeated pancreatic duct stenting and/or partial pancreatectomy. Some patients undergo total pancreatectomy for pain relief, which leads to immediate and total insulin deficiency diabetes.

Autologous islet transplantation is a technique performed as an adjunct to a total or near total pancreatectomy in order to salvage and transplant beta cells to prevent complications of chronic diabetes. During the pancreatectomy, a suspension is created by mixing plasma and the isolated islet cells collected from the individual's own resected pancreatic specimen. This suspension is then injected into the portal vein of the liver where the cells function as a free graft.

Allogeneic pancreatic islet cell transplantation utilizes human donor cells (other than those of the recipient); **xenotransplantation** utilizes porcine cells, both are alternative procedures that require lifelong immunosuppression to prevent graft-rejection and recurrence of the autoimmune process. (See [Limitations/Exclusions](#))

Guideline

Note: This guideline is specific to pancreatic islet cell transplantation for members with chronic pancreatitis who require pancreatectomy. For whole organ (pancreas) transplant to treat Type 1 diabetes, members and providers are directed to call the EmblemHealth Transplant Program for case management services at 1-800-447-0768.

Members with chronic pancreatitis are eligible for autologous pancreatic islet cell transplantation when the following criteria are met; both:

1. Severe pain refractory to medical management.
2. Transplantation is adjunctive to total/near-total pancreatectomy.

Limitations/Exclusions

The following types of transplantation are not considered medically necessary for the treatment of Type 1 diabetes due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value:

1. Allogeneic islet cell transplantation.
2. Islet cell xenotransplantation.

Applicable Procedure Codes

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| 0584T | Islet cell transplant, includes portal vein catheterization and infusion, including all imaging, including guidance, and radiological supervision and interpretation, when performed; percutaneous |
| 0585T | Islet cell transplant, includes portal vein catheterization and infusion, including all imaging, including guidance, and radiological supervision and interpretation, when performed; laparoscopic |
| 0586T | Islet cell transplant, includes portal vein catheterization and infusion, including all imaging, including guidance, and radiological supervision and interpretation, when performed; open |
| 48160 | Pancreatectomy, total or subtotal, with autologous transplantation of pancreas or pancreatic islet cells |
| 48550 | Donor pancreatectomy (including cold preservation), with or without duodenal segment for transplantation |

Applicable ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

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|---------|--------------------------------------|
| K86.0 | Alcohol-induced chronic pancreatitis |
| K86.1 | Other chronic pancreatitis |
| Z90.410 | Acquired total absence of pancreas |
| Z90.411 | Acquired partial absence of pancreas |

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