



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 04|01|2017

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 04|07|2021

### OVERVIEW

For the purpose of this policy, lactation consultations refer to the educational services and clinical management provided to women who plan to breastfeed but encounter difficulties due to anatomic variations and feeding problems with newborns.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Lactation consultations are covered, for one of the diagnosis codes listed below, when the services are provided by an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (RLC) or physician.

Note: Services provided by a Home Care Agency are covered as part of the home care per diem.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable office visit or preventive services benefit.

Lactation consultations are subject to The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) providing preventive services for women which includes breastfeeding support with no cost sharing when services are delivered by a network provider.

### BACKGROUND

A health professional may be certified by the International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). An IBCLC is a health care professional who specializes in the clinical management of breastfeeding with extensive formal lactation education and clinical training who has passed an international certification exam and has continuing education requirements in lactation. They may also be called a Registered Lactation Consultant (RLC)

In order to be eligible for licensing in Rhode Island, International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant must meet the following qualifications to be licensed per

#### *Rules and Regulations for Licensing of Lactation Consultants [R23-13.6-LA: Section 3.0*

**Qualification for Licensure:** 3.1 An applicant for licensure as a lactation consultant shall:

- (a) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) Successfully complete an academic and practical program in lactation that is accredited by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners;
- (c) Pass the examination for board certification as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant offered by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, or any successor organization; and

(d) Currently be board certified as an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant.

### **CODING**

There is not a specific CPT or HCPCS code that represents a lactation consult and services. Claims must be filed with the following CPT code, and a primary diagnosis from the list below:

98960 Education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, nonphysician health care professional using a standardized curriculum, face-to-face with the patient (could include caregiver/family) each 30 minutes; individual patient

**Note:** CPT coding guidelines regarding time-based codes are followed. A unit is obtained when the midpoint is passed. Example, there needs to be 16 minutes of face to face time to bill for 30 minutes.

### **ICD-10 diagnosis Codes**

O92.011-O92.013

O92.019

O92.02-O92.03

O92.111-O92.113

O92.12-O92.13

O92.119

O92.20

O92.29

O92.3

O92.4-O92.5

O92.70

O92.79

P92.1-P92.6

P92.8-P92.9

### **RELATED POLICIES**

Preventive Services for Commercial Members

### **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, June 2021

Provider Update, November 2019

Provider Update, June 2017

Provider Update, September 2016

### **REFERENCES**

1. Rules and Regulations for Licensing of Lactation Consultants, [R23-13.6-LAC]  
<http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/8067.pdf>

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