



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 01|01|2022

**POLICY LAST REVIEWED:** 07|16|2025

### OVERVIEW

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

Note: For plans that have coverage for preventive services, please refer to the related policy for Preventive Services for Commercial regarding cost share for these services.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

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

#### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable benefits/coverage.

### 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

BCBSRI requires claims for lactation consultation services to be submitted on a single claim listing the mother as the patient. Any claims submitted under an infant (ages 0-12 months) will not be considered for reimbursement. A maximum of one (1) unit for CPT Code 98960 per date of service will be considered for reimbursement.

### Medicare Advantage Plans

The following code is covered and separately reimbursed, **when filed with a primary diagnosis** from the ICD-10 Diagnosis Code(s) list below, applicable cost share will apply:

**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\*

A maximum of one (1) unit for CPT Code 98960 per date of service. will be considered for reimbursement.

### Commercial Products

The following code is covered and separately reimbursed with no cost share, **when filed with a primary diagnosis** from the ICD-10 Diagnosis Code(s) 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\*

A maximum of one (1) unit for CPT Code 98960 per date of service. will be considered for reimbursement.

### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Claims filed for CPT code 98960, with any diagnosis code not found in the ICD-10 Diagnosis Code(s) list below, the service will be covered but not separately reimbursed.

(\***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 Code(s)

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, August 2025

Provider Update, December 2021

Provider Update, June 2021

Provider Update, June 2021

Provider Update, November 2019  
Provider Update, June 2017

## 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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