



EFFECTIVE DATE: 01|01|2023

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 01|01|2023

OVERVIEW

This policy documents the state-mandated coverage guidelines for the treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). (Rhode Island General Law § 27-18-89)

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Some services may require prior authorization.

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

In accordance with Rhode Island General Law § 27-18-89, coverage is provided for the treatment of PANDAS and PANS, including, but not limited to, the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

COVERAGE

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

Although Rhode Island-mandated benefits generally do not apply to Plan 65, FEP, and Medicare Advantage Plans, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island has adopted these coverage requirements for all insured products.

BACKGROUND

This policy documents the Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) § 27-18-89 for the treatment of PANDAS and PANS.

§ 27-18-89. Mandatory coverage for treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome - Every group health insurance contract, or every group hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state, by any health insurance carrier, on or after January 1, 2023, shall provide coverage for treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, including, but not limited to, the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

Pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with Streptococcus infections (PANDAS) is a neurological and psychiatric condition in which symptoms are brought on or worsened by a Streptococcal (strep) infection. PANDAS is a subtype of pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). The main neuropsychiatric symptoms are the presence of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and/or tics (uncontrolled, sudden, repetitive movements or sounds), which are severe enough to interfere with the ability to function. After the initial strep infection, subsequent flares can be associated with other infectious or

environmental triggers. The underlying cause of PANDAS is unclear, but studies suggest that a strep infection causes an abnormal immune response resulting in neuropsychiatric symptoms.

A non-exhaustive list of treatments for PANDAs and PANs is located here: <https://pandasnetwork.org/understanding-pandas/treatment/>

CODING

For billing and diagnosis purposes, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome shall be coded as autoimmune encephalitis until the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services create and assign a specific code for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome. Thereafter, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome may be coded as autoimmune encephalitis, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections, or pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.

RELATED POLICIES

Prior Authorization of Drugs

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, January 2023

REFERENCES

1. Rhode Island General Law (RIGL). 27-18-89 Mandatory coverage for treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.
2. Pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with Streptococcus infections <https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/7312/pediatric-autoimmune-neuropsychiatric-disorders-associated-with-streptococcus-infections>

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