



EFFECTIVE DATE: 07|01|2010

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 03|05|2013

OVERVIEW

For the purpose of this policy, lactation consultations refers to the educational services provided to women who plan to breast-feed but encounter difficulties due to anatomic variations or complications and feeding problems with newborns.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

POLICY STATEMENT

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

Lactation consultations are covered for one of the diagnosis codes listed below as part of an inpatient stay or in the outpatient setting (e.g., clinic or physician's office). The service is typically rendered by a certified lactation consultant employed by a clinic, physician office or home care agency as part of an office visit.

BCBSRI does not directly reimburse an independent certified lactation consultant for services as BCBSRI only recognizes providers who are licensed under the laws of the State of Rhode Island or another state to furnish health care services.

Claims for lactation consults are reimbursed only when submitted by a facility, physician or home care agency. Members may submit claims for non-par providers; however, BCBSRI will not reimburse a member for services rendered directly by an independent certified lactation consultant.

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 benefit.

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BACKGROUND

Certified Lactation Counselors also known as Certified Lactation Consultants (CLC) or Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS) are professional breast-feeding specialists trained to help mothers with a variety of issues. A lactation specialist, counselor or consultant may work at a hospital, clinic, or doctor's office. Typically, certified lactation specialists counsel mothers and babies with latching difficulties, painful nursing, low milk production, or inadequate weight gain. These health care professionals have taken additional training in lactation management but are not nationally or internationally certified.

The certified lactation consultant teaches as well as counsels mothers in helping to understand the fundamentals of lactation as well as supporting their efforts to learn how to feed their babies. The certified lactation specialist helps women meet their breast-feeding goals in light of special circumstances such as returning to work or school. They are familiar with breast-feeding equipment such as breast pumps and other supplies that are helpful to breast-feeding mothers and infants.

A health professional may also be certified by the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). An IBCLC is a health care professional who specializes in the clinical management of breast-feeding 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).

There is no licensure in Rhode Island for lactation specialists. License requirements may vary by state. BCBSRI does not directly reimburse a certified lactation consultant for services as BCBSRI only recognizes those who are licensed under the laws of the State of Rhode Island or another state to furnish health care services.

CODING

Lactation consultations (98960) are separately reimbursed when filed by a licensed MD/DO or mid-level practitioners when the lactation consultation is the only service provided and performed by a certified lactation consultant under the general supervision of a licensed MD/DO or mid-level practitioner.

Lactation consultations (98960) are considered not separately reimbursed and part of the E & M service when it is provided at the same time as an E&M visit.

99201-99215

99381-99397

Lactation consultations will deny as not separately reimbursed for members (HCR and NHCR participants) when filed with a non-covered diagnosis not listed below.

If the service is provided by a Home Care Agency, the service is covered as part of the home care per diem.

ICD-10 Codes

O92.011 O92.012 O92.013 O92.019 O92.02 O92.03 O92.111

O92.112 O92.113 O92.12 O92.13 O92.20 O92.29 O92.3

O92.4 O92.5 O92.70 O92.79 P92.1 P92.2 P92.3

P92.4 P92.5 P92.8 P92.9

RELATED POLICIES

Preventive Services for Commercial

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, May 2013

Provider Update, August 2012

Provider Update, April 2011

REFERENCES

None.

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