Subject: Umbilical Cord Blood Banking

Effective Date: March 1, 1997

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: The collection and preservation of umbilical cord blood for future use is not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Collection and storage costs associated with directed banking of umbilical cord blood for medically necessary hematopoietic stem cell transplantation into a covered recipient is reimbursable under plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Testing of previously collected umbilical cord blood for compatibility for transplant into a covered potential recipient is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To insure proper and consistent reimbursement and to distinguish those aspects of the use of fetal cord blood that is reimbursable from those that are not.

Procedure:

A. Requests for coverage of collection and preservation of fetal cord blood and/or peripheral blood stem cells for future use will be denied as this procedure is considered investigational.

B. Requests for testing of fetal cord blood for compatibility for transplant into a covered member are subject to utilization review under the Plan’s provisions for bone marrow and/or stem cell transplantation.

References:


Committee on Obstetric Practice, committee on Genetics. ACOG committee opinion number 399, February 2008: Reaffirmed 2012. Accessed online at acog.org.


Committee on Obstetric Practice, committee on Genetics. ACOG committee opinion number 399, February 2008: umbilical cord blood banking. Obstet Gynecol 2008; 111(2Pt1):465-477 (Feb)

Fox NS, Chervenak FA, McCullough LB. Ethical considerations in umbilical cord blood banking. Obstet Gynecol 2008; 111(1):178-182 (Jan)


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Kline RM, Bertolone SJ. Umbilical cord blood transplantation: providing a donor for everyone needing a bone marrow transplant? South Med J 1998;91;821-828 (Sep)


Wiley JM, Kuller JA. Storage of newborn stem cells for future use. Obstet Gynecol 1997;89:1049-1959 (Jun)

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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.