

UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Medical Policy Update Bulletin: August 2021

Access a policy listed below for complete details on the latest updates. A comprehensive summary of changes is provided at the bottom of every policy document for your reference. To view a detailed version of this bulletin, click [here](#).

Take Note

Implementation of Revisions to Medical Benefit Drug Policies Delayed

Implementation of the revisions to the following Medical Benefit Drug Policies, previously announced for an effective date of Aug. 1, 2021, has been postponed; refer to the policies for complete details on the changes to now be applied on the dates noted below:

- Maximum Dosage and Frequency – Effective Sep. 1, 2021
- Xolair® (Omalizumab) – Effective Oct. 1, 2021

Medical Policy Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Cell-Free Fetal DNA Testing	Updated	Aug. 1, 2021
Epidural Steroid Injections for Spinal Pain	Updated	Oct. 1, 2021
Hearing Aids and Devices Including Wearable, Bone-Anchored and Semi-Implantable	Updated	Aug. 1, 2021
Implanted Spinal Drug Delivery Systems	New	Oct. 1, 2021
Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Intrauterine Fetal Surgery	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Liposuction for Lipedema	New	Oct. 1, 2021
Obstructive and Central Sleep Apnea Treatment	Revised	Oct. 1, 2021
Omnibus Codes	Revised	Oct. 1, 2021
Percutaneous Neuroablation for Severe Cancer Pain and Trigeminal Neuralgia	New	Nov. 1, 2021
Prolotherapy and Platelet Rich Plasma Therapies	Updated	Aug. 1, 2021
Prostate Surgeries and Interventions	Revised	Oct. 1, 2021
Radiation Therapy: Fractionation, Image-Guidance and Special Services	New	Oct. 1, 2021
Sacroiliac Joint Interventions	Revised	Oct. 1, 2021
Surgery of the Foot	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Surgery of the Shoulder	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Sympathetic Blockade	New	Nov. 1, 2021

Medical Benefit Drug Policy Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Actemra® (Tocilizumab) Injection for Intravenous Infusion *	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Brineura® (Cerliponase Alfa)	Updated	Aug. 1, 2021

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Cimzia® (Certolizumab Pegol)*	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Intravitreal Corticosteroid Implants	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Ophthalmologic Policy: Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) Inhibitors	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Orencia® (Abatacept) Injection for Intravenous Infusion*	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Rituximab (Riabni™, Rituxan®, Ruxience®, & Truxima®)	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Simponi Aria® (Golimumab) Injection for Intravenous Infusion*	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
Stelara® (Ustekinumab)*	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021
White Blood Cell Colony Stimulating Factors	Revised	Sep. 1, 2021

*Updated Aug. 3, 2021: Corrected summary of changes; refer to the detailed version of the [bulletin](#) for complete details

Utilization Review Guideline Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Inpatient Pediatric Feeding Programs	Retired	Aug. 1, 2021
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) Scan – Site of Service	New	Nov. 1, 2021
Office Based Procedures - Site of Service	Revised	Oct. 1, 2021
Screening Colonoscopy Procedures – Site of Service	New	Nov. 1, 2021

General Information

The inclusion of a health service (e.g., test, drug, device or procedure) in this bulletin indicates only that UnitedHealthcare is adopting a new policy and/or updated, revised, replaced or retired an existing policy; it does not imply that UnitedHealthcare provides coverage for the health service. Note that most benefit plan documents exclude from benefit coverage health services identified as investigational or unproven/not medically necessary. Physicians and other health care professionals may not seek or collect payment from a member for services not covered by the applicable benefit plan unless first obtaining the member's written consent, acknowledging that the service is not covered by the benefit plan and that they will be billed directly for the service.

Note: The absence of a policy does not automatically indicate or imply coverage. As always, coverage for a health service must be determined in accordance with the member's benefit plan and any applicable federal or state regulatory requirements. Additionally, UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to review the clinical evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of a medical technology prior to rendering a coverage determination.

UnitedHealthcare respects the expertise of the physicians, health care professionals, and their staff who participate in our network. Our goal is to support you and your patients in making the most informed decisions regarding the choice of quality and cost-effective care, and to support practice staff with a simple and predictable administrative experience. The Medical Policy Update Bulletin was developed to share important information regarding UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, Coverage Determination Guideline, and Utilization Review Guideline updates. When information in this bulletin conflicts with applicable state and/or federal law, UnitedHealthcare follows such applicable federal and/or state law.

Policy Update Classifications

New

New clinical coverage criteria have been adopted for a health service (e.g., test, drug, device or procedure)

Updated

An existing policy has been reviewed and changes have not been made to the clinical coverage criteria; however, items such as the clinical evidence, FDA information, and/or list(s) of applicable codes may have been updated

Revised

An existing policy has been reviewed and revisions have been made to the clinical coverage criteria

Replaced

An existing policy has been replaced with a new or different policy

Retired

The health service(s) addressed in the policy are no longer being managed or are considered to be proven/medically necessary and are therefore not excluded as unproven/not medically necessary services, unless coverage guidelines or criteria are otherwise documented in another policy



The complete library of UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Medical Policies, Medical Benefit Drug Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and Utilization Review Guidelines is available at UHCprovider.com > Policies and Protocols > Exchange Plans Policies > [Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for UnitedHealthcare® Value & Balance Exchange Plans](#).