Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota (EVICORE, EFFECTIVE 7/2023)

Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation—Pre-authorization Checklist

The following checklist reflects the minimum requirements that the plan will need at the time of pre-authorization. Failure to include all of this information in the pre-authorization request or failure to make sure that all 'no' answers are fully addressed in the pre-authorization request will significantly increase the likelihood that the pre-authorization request will be denied or significantly delayed.

Function limiting pain (e.g., loss of knee function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate ADL and/or demands of employment)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Presence of BOTH of the following on physical examination: • A stable knee with intact or reconstructed ligaments • Normal tibial-femoral and/or patella-femoral alignment • A concurrent ligament stabilization or meniscal procedure at the time of ACI would be acceptable	☐ Yes ☐ No
Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration	☐ Yes ☐ No
A full-thickness, single or multiple, distal femoral articular surface (i.e., medial condyle, lateral condyle, or trochlea) and/or patellar chondral defect of 1-10 cm^2 in size that has been identified during an MRI or CT arthrogram, or during an arthroscopy and classified by the Modified Outerbridge Scale as Grade III or Grade IV	☐ Yes ☐ No
Minimal to absent osteoarthritis changes in the surrounding articular cartilage (Kellgren-Lawrence grade 2 or less)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Normal articular cartilage at the lesion border (contained lesion)	☐ Yes ☐ No
BMI 35 or less	☐ Yes ☐ No
Age 15-55 years	☐ Yes ☐ No
Confirm absence of: • Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) lesion that requires bone grafting • Inflammatory arthritis or other systemic disease affecting the joints • Any knee joint surgery within six (6) months before screening excluding surgery to procure a biopsy or concomitant procedure to prepare the knee for MACI implant • Modified Outerbridge Grade III or IV defects on the tibia • Presence of Kellgren-Lawrence grade 3 or 4 osteoarthritic changes in the surrounding articular cartilage • Total meniscectomy, meniscal allograft, or bucket-handle tear or displaced tear requiring > 50% removal of the meniscus in the target knee • Septic arthritis within one (1) year before screening • Known history of hypersensitivity to gentamicin, other aminoglycosides, or products of porcine or bovine origin • Uncorrected congenital blood coagulation disorders • Cruciate ligament instability • Hybrid ACI performed with osteochondral autograft (OATS) is considered experimental and investigational • For femoral and patellar chondral lesions, a corresponding "kissing" lesion with a modified Outerbridge Scale of Grade III or IV of the distal femur (trochlea, condyles), patella, or tibia	☐ Yes ☐ No

All 'no' answers must be fully addressed at time of pre-authorization.