Small Bowel/Liver and Multivisceral Transplant

Policy Number: MM.07.025
Original Effective Date: 05/23/2001
Line(s) of Business: HMO; PPO
Current Effective Date: 07/24/2015
Section: Transplants
Place(s) of Service: Inpatient

I. Description

Small bowel/liver transplantation is transplantation of an intestinal allograft in combination with a liver allograft, either alone or in combination with 1 or more of the following organs: stomach, duodenum, jejunum, ileum, pancreas, or colon.

Background

Small bowel transplants are typically performed in patients with short bowel syndrome, defined as an inadequate absorbing surface of the small intestine due to extensive disease or surgical removal of a large portion of small intestine. In some instances, short bowel syndrome is associated with liver failure, often due to the long-term complications of total parenteral nutrition (TPN). These patients may be candidates for a small bowel/liver transplant or a multivisceral transplant, which includes the small bowel and liver with 1 or more of the following organs: stomach, duodenum, jejunum, ileum, pancreas, and/or colon. A multivisceral transplant is indicated when anatomic or other medical problems preclude a small bowel/liver transplant.

II. Policy

A. A small bowel/liver transplant or multivisceral transplant is covered (subject to Administrative Guidelines) for pediatric and adult patients with intestinal failure (characterized by loss of absorption and the inability to maintain protein-energy, fluid, electrolyte, or micronutrient balance) who have been managed with long-term total parenteral nutrition (TPN) and who have developed evidence of impending end-stage liver failure.

B. A small bowel/liver retransplant or multivisceral retransplant is covered (subject to Administrative Guidelines) after a failed primary small bowel/liver transplant or multivisceral transplant.
III. Policy Guidelines

General

A. Potential contraindications to solid organ transplant (subject to the judgment of the transplant center):
   1. Known current malignancy, including metastatic cancer
   2. Recent malignancy with high risk of recurrence
   3. History of cancer with a moderate risk of recurrence
   4. Systemic disease that could be exacerbated by immunosuppression
   5. Untreated systemic infection making immunosuppression unsafe, including chronic infection
   6. Other irreversible end-stage disease not attributed to intestinal failure
   7. Psychosocial conditions or chemical dependency affecting ability to adhere to therapy

B. Intestinal failure results from surgical resection, congenital defect, or disease-associated loss of absorption and is characterized by the inability to maintain protein-energy, fluid, electrolyte, or micronutrient balance (adapted from reference 1). Short bowel syndrome is one case of intestinal failure.

C. Candidates should meet the following criteria:
   - Adequate cardiopulmonary status
   - Documentation of patient compliance with medical management

D. HIV [human immunodeficiency virus]-positive patients who meet the following criteria, as stated in the 2001 guidelines of the American Society of Transplantation, could be considered candidates for small bowel/live or multivisceral transplantation:
   - CD4 count > 200 cells per cubic millimeter for greater than 6 months
   - HIV-1 RNA undetectable
   - On stable anti-retroviral therapy >3 months
   - No other complications from AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] (e.g., opportunistic infection, including aspergillus, tuberculosis, coccidiosis mycosis, resistant fungal infections, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or other neoplasm), and meeting all other criteria for transplantation

Small Bowel/Liver Specific

Evidence of intolerance of total parenteral nutrition (TPN) includes, but is not limited to, multiple and prolonged hospitalizations to treat TPN-related complications, or the development of progressive but reversible liver failure. In the setting of progressive liver failure, small bowel transplant may be considered a technique to avoid end-stage liver failure related to chronic TPN, thus avoiding the necessity of a multivisceral transplant.

IV. Administrative Guidelines

A. Precertification is required for a transplant evaluation and for the transplant itself and should be submitted by the proposed treating facility. To precertify, please complete HMSA’s
Precertification Request and mail or fax the form as indicated along with the required documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44120</td>
<td>Enterectomy, resection of small intestine; single resection and anastomosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44121</td>
<td>;each additional resection and anastomosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44132</td>
<td>Donor enterectomy (including cold preservation), open; from cadaveric donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44133</td>
<td>;partial, from living donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44715</td>
<td>Backbench standard preparation of cadaver or living donor intestine allograft prior to transplantation, including mobilization and fashioning of the superior mesenteric artery and vein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44720</td>
<td>Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor intestine allograft prior to transplantation, venous anastomosis, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44721</td>
<td>;arterial anastomosis, each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44799</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, intestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47133</td>
<td>Donor hepatectomy (including cold preservation), from cadaver donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47135</td>
<td>Liver allotransplantation, orthotopic, partial or whole, cadaver or living donor, any age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47136</td>
<td>heterotopic, partial or whole, cadaver or living donor any age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47140</td>
<td>Donor hepatectomy (including cold preservation), from living donor; left lateral segment only (segments II and III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47141</td>
<td>total left lobectomy (segments II, III, or IV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47142</td>
<td>total right lobectomy (segments V, VI, VII, and VIII)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47143</td>
<td>Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor whole liver graft prior to allotransplantation, including cholecystectomy, if necessary, and dissection and removal of surrounding tissues to prepare the vena cava, portal vein, hepatic artery, and common bile duct for implantation; without trisegment or lobe split</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47144</td>
<td>with trisegment split of whole liver graft into two partial liver grafts (i.e., left lateral segment (segments II and III) and right trisegment (segments I and IV through VIII))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47145</td>
<td>with lobe split of whole liver graft into two partial liver grafts (i.e., left lobe (segments II, III and IV) and right lobe (segments I and V through VIII))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47146</td>
<td>Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor liver graft prior to allotransplantation; venous anastomosis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICD-9 Procedure Code | Description
--- | ---
45.63 | Total removal of small intestine
46.97 | Transplant of intestine
50.59 | Transplant, liver

HCPCS Code | Description
--- | ---
S2053 | Transplantation of small intestine, and liver allografts
S2054 | Transplantation of multivisceral organs
S2055 | Harvesting of donor multivisceral organs, with preparation and maintenance of allografts; from cadaver donor

ICD-10 codes are provided for your information. These will not become effective until the ICD-10 compliance date.

| ICD-10-PCS | Description |
--- | ---
0DY60Z0 | Transplantation, stomach, open, allogeneic
0DY80Z0 | Transplantation, small intestine, open, allogeneic
0DYE0Z0 | Transplantation, large intestine, open, allogeneic
0FY00Z0 | Transplantation, liver, open, allogeneic
0FYG0Z0 | Transplantation, pancreas, open, allogeneic

V. Scientific Background

This policy is updated regularly with searches of the MEDLINE database. The most recent literature search was on May 4, 2015.

A 1999 TEC Assessment focused on multivisceral transplantation and offered the following conclusions:

Multivisceral transplantation in patients with small bowel syndrome, liver failure, and/or other gastrointestinal problems such as pancreatic failure, thromboses of the celiac axis and the superior mesenteric artery, or pseudo-obstruction affecting the entire gastrointestinal tract is associated with poor patient and graft survival. Pediatric and adult patients have a similar 2- and 5-year survival of 33% to 50%. However, without this procedure, it is expected that these patients would face 100% mortality.

The published literature consists of case series, mainly reported by single centers. Authors of these reports, as well as reviews, observe that while outcomes continue to improve, recurrent and
chronic rejection and complications of immunosuppression continue to be obstacles to long-term survival.

In 2010, Nayyar et al reported that there had been improvements in 5-year actuarial patient and graft survival after liver/small bowel transplant since the use of rabbit antithymocyte globulin induction began to be used in their pediatric center in 2002 (81% vs 58% and 76% vs 52%, respectively). In addition to innovations in immunosuppressive therapy, the authors cited new approaches to management of short gut syndrome including hypoallergenic formulas and modification of enteral nutrition to prevent total parenteral nutrition (TPN)-induced cholestasis. The authors noted that better understanding of the protective role of the liver in preventing chronic rejection of the small bowel allograft could improve long-term survival after isolated small bowel transplantation.

Other survival data include a 2009 report by Abu-Elmagd et al reporting on their experience with 500 intestinal and multivisceral transplantations. The study found 1- and 5-year patient survival of 92% and 70%, respectively. A 2013 study from a single center in Sweden included 30 patients accepted for intestinal and multivisceral transplantation. One- and 3-year survival rates were 68% and 61%, respectively. Among patients awaiting transplantation after being accepted as candidates, there was a 34% survival rate. In 2013, Mangus et al reported on 95 patients who underwent multivisceral transplantation with or without liver transplantation at one site in the U.S. One-year patient survival was 72% and 3-year survival was 57%. The authors noted a learning curve, with a 48% survival rate for transplants performed between 2004 and 2007 and a 70% survival rate for operations between 2008 and 2010.

Several case series have focused on complications after small bowel and multivisceral transplantation. For example, in 2011 Wu et al reported on 241 patients who underwent intestinal transplantation. Of these, 147 (61%) had multivisceral transplants, 65 (27%) had small bowel transplants, and 12% had small bowel/liver transplants. There were 151 children (63%) and 90 adults. A total of 22 patients (9%) developed graft-versus-host disease. Children younger than 5 years-old were more likely to develop this condition; the incidence in this age group was 16 of 121 (13.2%) compared with 2 of 30 (6.7%) in children between 5 and 18 years and 9 of 90 (4.4%) in adults older than 18 years. In addition, a 2012 article retrospectively reported on bloodstream infections among 98 children younger than age 18 years with small bowel/combined organ transplants. Seventy-seven (79%) patients underwent small bowel transplant in combination with a liver, kidney or kidney-pancreas, and 21 had an isolated small bowel transplant. After a median follow-up of 52 months, 58 (59%) patients remained alive. The 1-year survival rate was similar in patients with combined small bowel transplant (75%) and those with isolated small bowel transplant (81%). In the first year after transplantation, 68 patients (69.4%) experienced at least 1 episode of bloodstream infection. The 1-year survival rate for patients with bloodstream infections was 72% compared with 87% in patients without bloodstream infections (p=0.056 for difference in survival in patients with and without bloodstream infections).

A 2014 single-center Italian case series reported on transplants in 45 patients who received either intestinal transplants alone or a combined transplant procedure. Twelve of the patients had small
bowel/multivisceral transplants. Five of these had the procedure due to short-bowel syndrome, 2 had chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, and 5 had Gardner syndrome. Survival rates for the entire patient population were 77% at 1 year, 58% at 3 years, 53% at 5 years, and 37% at 10 years.

HIV-Positive Transplant Recipients

This subgroup of recipients has long been controversial, due to the long-term prognosis for HIV positivity and the impact of immunosuppression on HIV disease. Although HIV-positive transplant recipients may be a research interest of some transplant centers, the minimal data regarding long-term outcome in these patients primarily consist of case reports and abstract presentations of liver and kidney recipients. Nevertheless, some transplant surgeons would argue that HIV positivity is no longer an absolute contraindication to transplant due to the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy, which has markedly changed the natural history of the disease. In 2001, the Clinical Practice Committee of the American Society of Transplantation proposed that the presence of AIDS could be considered a contraindication to kidney transplant unless the following criteria were present. (10) These criteria may be extrapolated to other organs:

- CD4 count greater than 200 cells/mm$^{-3}$ for more than 6 months
- HIV-1 RNA undetectable
- On stable antiretroviral therapy for more than 3 months
- No other complications from AIDS (e.g., opportunistic infection, including aspergillus, tuberculosis, coccidioses mycosis, resistant fungal infections, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or other neoplasm).
- Meeting all other criteria for transplantation.

In 2006, the British HIV Association and the British Transplantation Society Standards Committee published guidelines for kidney transplantation in patients with HIV disease. (11) As previously described, these criteria may be extrapolated to other organs.

The guidelines, which are similar to those cited here, recommend that any patient with end stage organ disease with a life expectancy of at least 5 years is considered appropriate for transplantation under the following conditions:

- CD4 greater than 200 cells/mL for at least 6 months
- Undetectable HIV viremia (<50 HIV-1 RNA copies/mL) for at least 6 months
- Demonstrable adherence and a stable HAART regimen for at least 6 months
- Absence of AIDS-defining illness following successful immune reconstitution after HAART.

Furthermore, as of November 2010, the United Network for Organ Sharing policy on identification of transmissible diseases in organ recipients states, “A potential candidate for organ transplantation whose test for HIV is positive should not be excluded from candidacy for organ transplantation unless there is a documented contraindication to transplantation based on local policy.”

No studies that reported on outcomes in HIV-positive patients who received small bowel/liver or multivisceral transplants have been identified in literature reviews.
Retransplantation

In 2012, Trevizol et al published a review of literature from the previous 5 years on intestinal and multivisceral retransplantation. The authors found articles from 2 centers. Mazariegos et al reported on 15 retransplantations in 14 pediatric patients. By the end of follow-up, 4 patients had died and 10 patients had a normal graft function. TPN was weaned at a mean of 32 days after retransplantation. A 2009 study by Abu-Elmagd et al, discussed earlier, reported 47 retransplants after 500 intestinal and multivisceral transplantations in adults and children. Included were 31 intestinal retransplants, 9 multivisceral retransplants, and 7 intestinal/liver retransplants. For all types of retransplants combined, there is a 5-year survival rate of 47% for all retransplants.

Desai et al reported intestinal retransplantation data from the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) database. Between October 1987 and August 2009, there were 31 cases of small bowel/liver retransplants in adults and 49 in children. Among adults, 1-, 3-, and 5-year survival rates after retransplantation were 63.1%, 56.1%, and 46.8%, respectively. This compares with survival rates after primary small bowel/liver transplants of 67%, 53.3%, and 46% at 1-, 3- and 5-years. Among children, there was a 42.1% survival rate at 1-, 3- and 5 years after retransplantation. Survival rates after primary small bowel/liver transplantation was 67.6%, 56.1%, and 51.4%, respectively.

Summary

Evidence for small bowel/liver and multivisceral transplant and retransplant consists of case series. Though infrequently performed, the transplant procedures are demonstrated to provide a survival benefit, and the procedure is considered medically necessary for patients who have been managed with long-term total parenteral nutrition and who have developed evidence of impending end stage liver failure.

Medicare National Coverage

Medicare will cover intestinal transplantation for the purposes of restoring intestinal function in patients with irreversible intestinal failure only when performed for patients who have failed total parenteral nutrition (TPN) and only when performed in centers that meet approved criteria. (16) The criteria for approval of centers will be based on an annual volume of 10 intestinal transplants per year with a 1-year actuarial survival of 65% (these criteria were reviewed again in 2006 and upheld).

VI. Important Reminder

The purpose of this Medical Policy is to provide a guide to coverage. This Medical Policy is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Nothing in this Medical Policy is intended to discourage or prohibit providing other medical advice or treatment deemed appropriate by the treating physician.

Benefit determinations are subject to applicable member contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language will control.
This Medical Policy has been developed through consideration of the medical necessity criteria under Hawaii’s Patients’ Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Act (Hawaii Revised Statutes §432E-1.4), generally accepted standards of medical practice and review of medical literature and government approval status. HMSA has determined that services not covered under this Medical Policy will not be medically necessary under Hawaii law in most cases. If a treating physician disagrees with HMSA’s determination as to medical necessity in a given case, the physician may request that HMSA reconsider the application of the medical necessity criteria to the case at issue in light of any supporting documentation.

VII. References