
2025 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - FEP Blue Focus

Section 10. Definitions of Terms We Use in This Brochure

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Health Risk Assessment (HRA)

A questionnaire designed to assess your overall health and identify potential health risks. Service Benefit Plan members have access to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield HRA (called the “Blue Health Assessment”) which is supported by a computerized program that analyzes your health and lifestyle information and provides you with a personal and confidential health action plan that is protected by HIPAA privacy and security provisions. Results from the Blue Health Assessment include practical suggestions for making healthy changes and important health information you may want to discuss with your healthcare provider. For more information, visit our website, www.fepblue.org.

Iatrogenic infertility

Infertility caused by a medically necessary medical or surgical intervention used to treat a condition or disease.

Infertility

A disease or condition characterized by the failure to establish a pregnancy or to carry a pregnancy to live birth after regular, unprotected sexual intercourse, or a person’s inability to reproduce either as a single individual or with their partner without medical intervention, or a licensed physician’s findings based on a patient’s medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, and/or diagnostic testing.

Inpatient

You are an inpatient when you are formally admitted to a hospital with a doctor’s order.

Note: Inpatient care requires precertification. For some services and procedures prior approval must also be obtained. See Section 3.

Intensive outpatient care

A comprehensive, structured outpatient treatment program that includes extended periods of individual or group therapy sessions designed to assist members with mental health and/or substance use disorders. It is an intermediate setting between traditional outpatient therapy and partial hospitalization, typically performed in an outpatient facility or outpatient professional office setting. Program sessions may occur more than one day per week. Timeframes and frequency will vary based upon diagnosis and severity of illness.

Local Plan

A Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan that serves a specific geographic area.

Medical foods

The term medical food, as defined in Section 5(b) of the Orphan Drug Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee (b) (3)) is “a food which is formulated to be consumed or administered enterally under the supervision of a physician and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation.” In general, to be considered a medical food, a product must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: the product must be a food for oral or tube feeding; the product must be labeled for the dietary management of a specific medical disorder, disease, or condition for which there are distinctive nutritional requirements; and the product must be intended to be used under medical supervision.

Medical necessity

All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine that the criteria for medical necessity are met. Medical necessity shall mean healthcare services that a physician, hospital, or other covered professional or facility provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing, or treating an illness, injury, disease, or its symptoms, and that are:

1. In accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice in the United States; and
2. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration; and considered effective for the patient’s illness, injury, disease, or its symptoms; and
3. Not primarily for the convenience of the patient, physician, or other healthcare provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results for the diagnosis or treatment of that patient’s illness, injury, or disease, or its symptoms; and
4. Not part of or associated with scholastic education or vocational training of the patient; and
5. In the case of inpatient care, able to be provided safely only in the inpatient setting.

For these purposes, “generally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community and physician specialty society recommendations.

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