Meniscal Allograft Transplant

Disclaimer
Refer to the member’s specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage. This may not be a benefit on all plans or the plan may have broader or more limited benefits than those listed in this Medical Policy.

Description
Meniscal allograft transplantation is a surgical procedure to preserve or restore meniscal functions. It is for patients who have irreparable tears of the meniscus or who have undergone previous meniscectomy, and involves grafting a donor meniscus into the knee of the patient. Removal of the meniscus without replacement can lead to joint instability, loss of knee function, and early degenerative osteoarthritis.

Coverage Determination
Prior Authorization is required. Log on to Pres Online to submit a request: https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp

Presbyterian now uses MCG Criteria # A-0216. Due to contractual restrictions, providers may not access the MCG website but may obtain a current copy of the criteria from the Prior Authorization staff.

MCG current role remains uncertain. Based on review of existing evidence, there are currently no clinical indications for this technology. For prevention of osteoarthritis of the knee after meniscectomy, evidence is insufficient, conflicting, or poor and demonstrates an incomplete assessment of net benefit vs harm; additional research is recommended.

Background
Partial or complete removal of a meniscus following traumatic injury to the knee is associated with increased joint pressures, mechanical changes and, ultimately, degeneration of the articular cartilage. Although repair of an injured meniscus is attempted whenever possible, in some cases the tear is irreparable and some or all of the meniscus must be removed. Meniscal allograft transplantation was introduced as a way to prevent or reverse the joint deterioration that occurs when the meniscus has been destroyed or removed; this joint deterioration often leads to early degenerative osteoarthritis. Many meniscal allograft candidates need to undergo additional procedures, such as anterior cruciate ligament repair, performed in conjunction with the allografting to correct knee instability.

Articular and meniscal cartilage are relatively acellular, and the cellular and major antigenic components of cartilage are protected by the extracellular matrix. These factors may protect transplanted cartilage against an immune response, a theory supported by the fact that there is little evidence that hosts mount a systemic immune response or reject allograft cartilage.
Meniscal Allograft Transplant
MPM 13.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29868</td>
<td>Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; meniscal transplantation, medial or lateral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References
MCG Health Ambulatory Care 23rd Edition, Meniscal Allograft Transplant, AGC: A-0216 (AG), last update: 02/11/2019. [Cited 05/02/2019]

Approval Signatures:
Clinical Quality Committee: Norman White MD
Medical Director: David Yu MD

Approval Date: May 22, 2019

Publication History:
07-23-08: Original effective date
09-23-09: Annual review
10-27-10: Annual Review
01-18-12: Annual Review
02-27-13: Annual Review
01-29-14: Presbyterian Policy Retired
01-29-14: Presbyterian now uses MCG Criteria A-0216
03-25-15: Annual Review. MCG accessed no change.
05-22-19: Annual Review. MCG remains unchanged still remains inconclusive or non-supportive evidence.

This Medical Policy is intended to represent clinical guidelines describing medical appropriateness and is developed to assist Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) Health Services staff and Presbyterian medical directors in determination of coverage. The Medical Policy is not a treatment guide and should not be used as such.

For those instances where a member does not meet the criteria described in these guidelines, additional information supporting medical necessity is welcome and may be utilized by the medical director in reviewing the case. Please note that all Presbyterian Medical Policies are available online at our website at: http://www.phs.org/phs/healthplans/providers/healthservices/Medical/index.htm