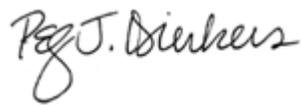


	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Medical Assistance (MA) Payment Policy for Multivisceral Transplants	BY  Peg J. Dierkers, Ph.D. Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
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EFFECTIVE DATE:	November 28, 2000	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce the Medical Assistance (MA) Program's payment policy relating to multivisceral transplants.

SCOPE:

This applies to all physicians and general hospitals enrolled in the MA Program and managed care organizations (MCO) under contract with the Department.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In 1984, the Department began reimbursing providers for medically necessary organ transplants where no alternative common medical treatment, as recognized by the medical community, was available. As medical researchers became more successful in the transplantation of vital organs, the list of transplants used for the management of diseases as recognized standard treatment in the medical community has grown.

In 1996, the Department was asked to consider coverage for small bowel transplantation and combined liver and small bowel transplantation. After careful review, the Department considered combined liver and small bowel transplantation procedure to be investigational and noncompensable. Requests for liver transplantation continued to be certified; however, if the medical information indicated that small bowel transplantation would be included in the procedure, the hospital was told they would be reimbursed for the liver transplantation only.

The Department revisited the issue in 1997, when the number of requests to perform the combined procedure increased. Based on the outcome of extensive research, the Department concluded that small bowel and combined and small bowel transplantation, when medically warranted could be compensable.

In January 1999 and April 1999, the Department received requests to certify liver transplants combined with a small bowel, a kidney, pancreas and possibly a stomach transplant.

These transplants, known as multivisceral transplantation are the only available treatment for patients with combined organ failure and/or low-grade malignant tumors of the digestive system. This multiple organ transplantation would be considered when patients suffer irreversible failure of three or more of the abdominal visceral organs, including the small bowel.

Additionally, the Department also covers the following medically necessary transplants: heart, kidney, liver, lung, double lung, cornea, bone marrow, heart/lung, small bowel, liver/small bowel, pancreas, pancreas/small bowel, pancreas/kidney, pancreas/liver and stem cell.

PROCEDURE:

Effective upon issuance of this MA Bulletin, the Department will cover multivisceral transplantation under the MA Program.

The Office of Medical Assistance Programs' Division of Medical Review, Place of Service Review Section will review requests for multivisceral transplants for medical appropriateness and certify the admissions for these transplants. These requests will

be reimbursed at the negotiated rate through the Program Exception Process.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.