

STANDARD BLOOD PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Policy

NHP reimburses contracted providers for the medically necessary administration (transfusion) of blood and standard blood products.

Prerequisites

Authorization, Notification and Referral

Service	Requirement
Blood Products and Services	No authorization, notification or referral required

The Prior Authorization Guidelines are accessible by the following link:
<http://www.nhp.org/PDFs/Providers/PriorAuthGrid.pdf>

Limitations

Cord blood collection and storage are not covered benefits.

Exceptions to Policy Criteria

Today the only blood products providers purchase are derivatives, considered biologicals, such as **albumin** and **RhoGam**, coded with revenue code **0636** (Pharmacy Restrictive Prescription, requiring a HCPCS code) in a facility, or with a HCPCS code on a professional claim, whether distributed through the pharmacy or the clinical lab's blood bank.

Member Cost-Sharing

The provider is responsible for verifying at each encounter and when applicable for each day of care when the patient is hospitalized, coverage, available benefits, and member out-of-pocket costs; copayments, coinsurance, and deductible required, if any.

Definitions

Autologous Blood Transfusion: The pre-collection and subsequent infusion of a patient's own blood. The blood is stored at the hospital for the exclusive use of the patient, assuring that the blood type is an exact match and no blood borne infection will be transmitted by the blood transfusion. Autologous blood may *not* be used on other patients because it is not tested for infectious diseases.

Biologicals: *Pharmacology:* any substance, as a serum or vaccine, derived from animal products or other biological sources and used to treat or prevent disease.

Blood: The familiar red fluid in the body that contains white and red blood cells, platelets, proteins, and other elements, that is pumped from the heart and circulates around the bodies of humans to remove waste materials and carbon dioxide and return nourishment and oxygen to the tissues.

Blood Cross Matching: A laboratory test done to confirm that blood from a donor and blood from the recipient are compatible.

Blood Processing Cost: The cost associated with collecting, testing, processing and storing, distributing and administering blood. Most U.S. non-profit blood suppliers, including The American Red Cross, charge *only* for blood processing costs and not for blood product costs.

Blood Processing Fee: The fee charged by blood suppliers to cover their blood *processing* costs. This fee *excludes* fees for the blood itself. The Red Cross's charges to the hospitals represent *only* blood processing fees, as the Red Cross does not charge for the blood itself.

Blood Products:

- **Component:** a product removed from whole blood by physical procedures.
- **Derivatives:** a product removed from whole blood by chemical procedures.

Blood Typing: A test to establish compatibility between two different types of blood. Blood types include A, B, AB or O.

Donor Directed Blood Transfusion: The infusion of blood or blood components that have been pre-collected from a specific individual(s) other than the patient and subsequently infused into the specific patient for whom the blood is designated. For example, patient B's brother pre-deposits his blood for use by patient B during upcoming surgery.

Hemophilia: A bleeding tendency resulting from a genetically determined deficiency of a clotting factor in the blood.

Homologous Blood Transfusion: The infusion of blood or blood components that have been collected from the general public.

Recombinant: A DNA technique used to produce millions of copies of a DNA fragment. The fragment is spliced into a cloning vehicle (**plasmid**, bacteriophage, or animal virus).

Transfusion: The administration of whole blood or any of its components and/or derivatives by transfusion to humans to restore lost blood, to improve clotting time, and to improve the ability of the blood to deliver oxygen to the body's tissues. Coverage does not make a distinction between the transfusion of homologous, autologous, or donor-directed blood.

Transfusion Service: A service within a hospital designed, equipped, and staffed to dispense and/or administer whole blood and/or its components and/or derivatives by transfusion to humans.

Neighborhood Health Plan Reimburses

- The administration of blood, blood products, including typing, cross matching, storage, processing, and the transfusion procedure.

- Blood products required for diseases of the blood.

Neighborhood Health Plan Does *Not* Reimburse

- Blood.
- Blood banking, including cord blood.
- Blood product donor fees (Eg. donors in exchange for their donation).
- Labs for services described as included in a product-specific P-code.
- Transportation of donated blood.
- Blood and/or blood products for experimental / investigational therapies.

Procedure Codes Applicable To Guideline

Code	Descriptor	Comments
030x	Charges for performance of diagnostic and routine clinical laboratory tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill with the specific CPT code for blood typing, cross matching, and other patient-specific lab services performed on the unit of blood. • NOTE: Services described as included in a product-specific P-code should not be separately billed with a lab service code.
031x	Charges for diagnostic and routine laboratory tests on tissues and culture	
0390	General Blood Processing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill with the HCPCS product specific “P” series code when the hospital obtains blood and blood products from the Red Cross at no charge, but there is a charge for lab tests performed, storage and processing of the blood.
0391	Blood administration (<u>transfusion services</u>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill with the appropriate CPT codes 36430–36460 for blood administration; • The hospital may also bill lab revenue codes 030X or 031X with a specific CPT code for blood typing and cross-matching and other <u>laboratory services related to the patient receiving the blood.</u>
36430-36460	Blood transfusion service	Bill under Revenue code 0391.
86000-86804	Immunology lab services	
86077-86079	Blood bank physician services	
86140-86804	Immunology lab services	
86850-86886	Transfusion medicine lab services	
86890-86091	Autologous blood process	
86900-86999	Transfusion medicine lab services	
90281-90399	Immune globulins, Serum, or Recombinant Products	
P9010	Blood (whole) for transfusion, per unit	
P9011	Blood split unit	
P9012	Cryoprecipitate each unit	
P9016	RBC leukocytes reduced	

P9017	Plasma 1 donor frz w/in 8 hr	
P9019	Platelets, each unit	
P9020	Platelet rich plasma unit	
P9021	Red blood cells unit	
P9022	Washed red blood cells unit	
P9023	Frozen plasma, pooled, sd	
P9031- P9037	Platelets, varied, per unit	
P9038- P9040	Red blood cells, varied, per unit	
P9043	Plasma protein fract,5%,50ml	
P9044	Cryoprecipitate reduced plasma	
P9048	Plasma protein fract,5%,250ml	
P9050	Granulocytes, pheresis unit	
P9051	Blood, l/r, cmv-neg	
P9052- P9053	Platelets, varied products, per unit	
P9054	Blood, l/r, froz/degly/wash	
P9055	Plt, aph/pher, l/r, cmv-neg	
P9056	Blood, l/r, irradiated	
P9057	RBC, frz/deg/wsh, l/r, irrad	
P9058	RBC, l/r, cmv-neg, irrad	
P9059	Plasma, frz between 8-24hour	Bill only for frozen plasma when the blood was frozen more than 8 but less than 24 hours from its collection.
P9060	Fr frz plasma donor retested	Bill only for 1 unit of fresh frozen plasma indicating that the donor has been re-tested.
S2140- S2142	Cord blood harvesting/transplantation	Not a covered benefit

Provider Payment Guidelines and Documentation

- A claim for a transfusion must include BOTH a transfusion CPT code and a blood product P-code.
- Laboratory services that are NOT patient-specific should not be billed.
- Services described as included in a product-specific P-code should not be separately billed with a lab service code. (Eg. Irradiation, freezing/thawing, and leukocyte reduction are examples of services often included in the charge for the unit of blood P-code.)
- Antigen screening is an example of a patient-specific lab service that is NOT included in a HCPCS code for the unit of blood. It is described by a specific CPT code and may be separately billed.
- Freezing and thawing are not separately reportable when fresh frozen plasma (FFP) is transfused.

References

American Red Cross Reimbursement for Blood, Blood Products, and Related Services 2012 Update

American Red Cross 2012 Charge Master Worksheet for Blood and Blood Components

Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health 105 CMR 135.000: Use of Blood, Blood Components, and Derivatives for the Purpose of Transfusion

Mass Health Provider Manual Series: Chronic Disease and Rehab (a) Outpatient, and (b) Inpatient Hospital Manuals; Acute (a) Outpatient, and (b) Inpatient Hospital Manuals

AMA-CPT Manual, current year

AMA-HCPCS Level II Manual, current year

Publication History

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2012/04/17 Original documentation, effective 2012/04/17

2012/06/28 Removal of P9041, P9045-P9047 from code list, effective 2012/06/28

This document is designed for informational purposes only. Claims payment is subject to member eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization/notification and utilization management guidelines when applicable, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, and provider contractual agreement. In the event of a conflict between this payment guideline and the provider’s agreement, the terms and conditions of the provider’s agreement shall prevail. Neighborhood Health Plan utilizes McKesson’s claims editing software, ClaimCheck, a clinically oriented, automated program that identifies the “appropriate set” of procedures eligible for provider reimbursement by analyzing the current and historical procedure codes billed on a single date of service and/or multiple dates of service, and also audits across dates of service to identify the unbundling of pre and post-operative care. Please refer to Neighborhood Health Plan’s Provider Manual Billing Guidelines section for additional information on NHP’s billing guidelines and administration policies. Questions may be directed to Provider Network Management at prweb@nhp.org.