

No review or update is scheduled on this Medical Policy as it is unlikely that further published literature would change the policy position. If there are questions about coverage of this service, please contact Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas customer service, your professional or institutional relations representative, or submit a predetermination request.

Dental Policy



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Title: Identification of Periodontal Microorganisms

See also: Identification of Microorganisms Using Nucleic Acid Testing

Professional

Original Effective Date: January 1, 2007
Revision Date(s): May 14, 2013;
December 31, 2013; May 13, 2015;
January 1, 2016; May 25, 2016;
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Current Effective Date: May 14, 2013

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Institutional

Original Effective Date: January 1, 2007
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October 1, 2018

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State and Federal mandates and health plan member contract language, including specific provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. To verify a member's benefits, contact [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Customer Service](#).

The BCBSKS Medical Policies contained herein are for informational purposes and apply only to members who have health insurance through BCBSKS or who are covered by a self-insured group plan administered by BCBSKS. Medical Policy for FEP members is subject to FEP medical policy which may differ from BCBSKS Medical Policy.

The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care providers are independent contractors and are neither employees nor agents of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas and are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment and medical advice.

If your patient is covered under a different Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan, please refer to the Medical Policies of that plan.

DESCRIPTION

Periodontal disease is caused mainly by microorganisms within the subgingival dental plaque, which penetrate the gingival epithelium, elicit an inflammatory host response, and ultimately result in destruction of the periodontium.^{1,2} This tissue destruction results

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in apical migration of gingival tissues (gingival recession), loss of periodontal attachment, and an increase in the depth of the gingival crevice (periodontal pockets).

Predisposing factors for periodontal disease include:

- Inadequate oral hygiene and increasing age, which are the two major risk factors
- Hormonal effects, with exacerbation of disease activity during puberty, menstruation, and pregnancy
- Certain underlying diseases, such as diabetes mellitus, various genetic disorders that impair neutrophil function, and rheumatoid arthritis³⁻⁶

POLICY

Identification of dental microorganisms is considered **experimental / investigational**.

Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

RATIONALE

Research has shown that the use of systemic antibiotics may be helpful in the treatment of progressive periodontitis³⁻⁶ and, specifically, the use of systemic antibiotics in conjunction with definitive periodontal therapy has been shown to offer slight improvements in clinical attachment levels when compared to patients treated without adjunctive antibiotic therapy.³⁻⁵

Systemic antibiotic therapy is considered useful primarily for patients with early onset and refractory or aggressive disease processes which do not respond to conventional conservative or conventional mechanical therapy.⁸ There is insufficient evidence to support the use of microbial identification in treating patients in chronic periodontal disease states.⁵

Although some studies have indicated slight improvement for periodontal therapy, there is inconclusive evidence to determine which antibiotic regimens are most effective, the most efficacious dosages and efficacious therapy duration, as well as the length of useful outcomes following administration.

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REVISIONS

05-14-2013	Effective for Institutional providers 30 days after the Revision Date. Policy added to the bcbsks.com web site.
05-13-2015	Policy reviewed; no changes made.
05-25-2016	Policy reviewed; no changes made.
05-10-2017	Policy reviewed.
10-01-2018	Policy Archived

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Other References

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2. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, Dental Advisory Committee, April 2013.