

**Title:** Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) (CAG-00415R)

**Decision:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is making changes to their existing National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Stem Cell Transplantation (100.23). CMS is removing the Coverage with Evidence Development (CED) requirement and expanding coverage for Allogeneic HSCT using bone marrow, peripheral blood or umbilical cord blood stem cell products for Medicare patients with MDS who are designated as high-risk or very high-risk. Coverage of all other indications for stem cell transplantation not otherwise specified will be made by local Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs).

**What this means:** Allogeneic HSCT for MDS was previously restricted to patients enrolled in an approved clinical study that met specific criteria. HSCT for MDS will now be covered for individuals who meet the criteria outlined in NCD 110.23. Coverage of all other indications for stem cell transplantation not otherwise specified may be covered for members subject to any requirements that may be established by the local MAC and/or HealthPartners. Please refer to the final decision memo for all coverage criteria.

**Effective:** March 6, 2024

This announcement can be found at: [Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation \(HSCT\) for Myelodysplastic Syndromes \(MDS\)](#).

HealthPartners is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. HealthPartners is also a Cost plan and PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners depends on contract renewal. HealthPartners UnityPoint Health is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners UnityPoint Health depends on contract renewal.

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H3416\_90242 IR Approved 06/2017  
H2422\_90242 IR Approved 07/2015  
H4882\_90242 IR Approved 03/2018