

Clinical review is required for adult members (age ≥18). The medical necessity criteria are outlined below.

CPT codes: *31253, *31254, *31255, *31257, *31259, *61580 and *61581

Acute ethmoid rhinosinusitis, complicated (urgent)

The following must be met:

1. Rhinosinusitis identified by CT AND EITHER of the following:
 - a. Air fluid levels
 - b. Opacification
2. Complications or complicating factors, identified by ONE or more of the following:
 - a. Immunocompromised host
 - b. Focal neurologic finding
 - c. Facial cellulitis
 - d. Orbital cellulitis or abscess identified by physical examination or CT
 - e. Periorbital abscess identified by physical examination
 - f. Meningitis identified by lumbar puncture
 - g. Intracranial abscess identified by CT or MRI
 - h. Cavernous sinus thrombosis identified by CT or MRI
 - i. Osteomyelitis identified by CT or MRI

Anterior cranial base fracture or tumor

Anterior cranial base fracture or tumor identified by imaging

Chronic ethmoid rhinosinusitis

All the following must be met:

1. TWO OR MORE of the following symptoms for at least 12 weeks:
 - a. Purulent nasal discharge
 - b. Nasal obstruction, blockage or congestion
 - c. Facial pain, pressure or fullness
 - d. Decreased or altered sense of smell
2. Rhinosinusitis identified by CT AND ONE or MORE of the following:
 - a. Air fluid levels
 - b. Mucosal thickening of more than 2 mm
 - c. Opacification
3. Continued symptoms or findings after treatment with BOTH of the following:
 - a. Antibiotic treatment for at least 3 weeks
 - b. Oral corticosteroid therapy for at least 5 days or intranasal corticosteroid spray for at least 3 weeks (unless contraindicated or not tolerated)

CSF leak or encephalocele

ONE of the following must be met:

1. CSF leak or encephalocele identified by ONE of the following:
 - a. CSF leak or encephalocele by high resolution CT
 - b. CSF leak or encephalocele by CT or MRI cisternography

2. CSF leak suspected post surgery or trauma and ONE OR MORE of the following:
 - a. Unilateral clear rhinorrhea
 - b. Meningitis by LP

Ethmoid sinus mass

Ethmoid sinus mass identified by CT or MRI

Epistaxis

EITHER of the following must be met:

1. At least ONE of the following:
 - a. Epistaxis uncontrolled by anterior or posterior packing
 - b. Epistaxis and known coagulopathy
2. Epistaxis and patient cannot tolerate packing and EITHER of the following:
 - a. Cardiopulmonary disease
 - b. Uncontrolled pain from packing

Medial orbital wall decompression

ONE of the following must be met:

1. Fracture of medial orbit and ALL of the following:
 - a. ONE or MORE of the following:
 - i. Restriction of extraocular motion
 - ii. Diplopia
 - iii. Enophthalmos
 - b. Globe injury excluded by physical exam
 - c. Fracture diagnosed by imaging
2. Thyroid-related orbitopathy and EITHER
 - a. Continued exposure keratopathy after treatment WITH ALL of the following:
 - i. Lid taping during sleep
 - ii. Artificial tears
 - iii. Systemic corticosteroids (unless contraindicated or not tolerated)
 - b. Compressive optic neuropathy uncontrolled by systemic corticosteroids (unless contraindicated or not tolerated).

Nasal polyposis

ALL of the following must be met:

1. Nasal obstruction by history
2. Nasal polyps identified by CT
3. Continued symptoms or findings after treatment with oral corticosteroids for at least 5 days or intranasal corticosteroid spray for at least 3 weeks (unless contraindicated or not tolerated)

Recurrent acute ethmoid rhinosinusitis

The following must be met:

1. At least 4 episodes of acute bacterial rhinosinusitis within 1 year AND an absence of signs or symptoms of rhinosinusitis between episodes
2. Ethmoid involvement identified by CT



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Authorization criteria: Ethmoidectomy, endoscopic

For Medicare Plus BlueSM, BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

References

Change Healthcare's InterQual[®] 2021 Procedures Adult Criteria, Ethmoidectomy, Endoscopic

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