

# Authorization criteria: Ethmoidectomy, endoscopic

For BCN HMO<sup>SM</sup> (commercial), BCN Advantage<sup>SM</sup>  
and Medicare Plus Blue<sup>SM</sup> PPO members

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

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## 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

## References

Change Healthcare's InterQual<sup>®</sup> 2019 Procedures Adult Criteria, Ethmoidectomy, Endoscopic