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


**Acute frontal rhinosinusitis, complicated (urgent)**

ALL of the following must be met:

1. Rhinosinusitis identified by CT AND EITHER of the following:
   a. Air fluid levels
   b. Opacification

2. Complication(s) or complicating factor(s) present as evidenced 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 by CT
   e. Periorbital abscess identified by physical examination or by CT
   f. Meningitis identified by lumbar puncture
   g. Intracranial abscess identified by CT or by MRI
   h. Cavernous sinus thrombosis identified by CT or MRI
   i. Osteomyelitis of frontal bone identified by CT or MRI

**Recurrent acute frontal rhinosinusitis**

ALL 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. Frontal sinus involvement identified by CT

**Chronic frontal rhinosinusitis**

All the following must be met:

1. TWO OR MORE of the following symptoms for ≥ 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 >2 mm
   c. Opacification

3. Continued symptoms after treatment with BOTH of the following:
   a. Antibiotic treatment ≥3 weeks
   b. Intranasal corticosteroid spray ≥3 weeks (unless intranasal corticosteroid spray contraindicated or not tolerated)
Authorization criteria:
Sinusotomy, frontal endoscopic

For Blue Care Network HMO℠ (commercial) and BCN Advantage℠ members
For Blue Cross Medicare Plus Blue℠ PPO members

Mucocoele or mucopyocele
Mucocoele or mucopyocele mass identified by CT

References
McKesson's InterQual® 2017 Procedures Adult Criteria, Sinusotomy, Frontal, Endoscopic
BCBS/BCN Michigan Medical Policy Title: Balloon Dilation for Treatment of Chronic Sinusitis
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAOHN) website

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Current authorization criteria effective date: March 2018