

UnitedHealthcare® West Benefit Interpretation Policy

# **Blood and Blood Products**

**Related Policies** 

None

Policy Number: BIP015.M Effective Date: June 1, 2024

Instructions for Use

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### **Federal/State Mandated Regulations**

#### None

## **State Market Plan Enhancements**

#### None

#### **Covered Benefits**

**Important Note**: Covered benefits are listed in *Federal/State Mandated Regulations*, *State Market Plan Enhancements*, and *Covered Benefits* sections. Always refer to the *Federal/State Mandated Regulations* and *State Market Plan Enhancements* sections for additional covered services/benefits not listed in this section.

Refer to member's EOC/SOB for additional information.

- Use and administration of blood and blood components, including but not limited to:
  - o Cryoprecipitate
  - o Platelets
  - o Fibrinogen
  - o Plasma
  - o Gamma globulin
  - o Albumin
- Blood provided through a blood bank on either an inpatient or outpatient basis.
- Blood clotting factors for hemophilia patients are covered when coverage criteria are met.
- Autologous (self-donated) and donor-directed (donor-designated) blood processing costs only for a scheduled
  procedure, including storage fees charged as a result of the physician and/or provider cancellations, which are
  beyond the member's control.
- Cost of blood collected but not used if the physician authorized the need.
- **Bloodless Surgery**: Surgical procedures performed without blood transfusions or blood products, including rho(d) immune globulin, for members are covered when medically necessary and prior authorization is obtained.

#### **Not Covered**

Blood charges associated with non-authorized or non-covered procedures.

### References

American Red Cross, Blood Components. How can one donation help multiple people? <u>Plasma, Platelets and Whole</u> <u>Blood | Red Cross Blood Services</u>. Accessed February 21, 2024.

## **Policy History/Revision Information**

Date	Summary of Changes
06/01/2024	<ul> <li>Covered Benefits</li> <li>Removed language indicating:         <ul> <li>Blood and blood components [are covered]</li> <li>Whole blood is a biological, which cannot be self-administered, and is covered when furnished incident to a physician's services</li> <li>Blood fractions may also be covered if all coverage requirements are satisfied</li> <li>Hemophilia, a blood disorder characterized by prolonged coagulation time, is caused by deficiency of a factor in plasma necessary for blood to clot</li> </ul> </li> <li>Supporting Information         <ul> <li>Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current information</li> <li>Archived previous policy version BIP015.L</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### **Instructions for Use**

Covered benefits are listed in three (3) sections: *Federal/State Mandated Regulations*, *State Market Plan Enhancements*, and *Covered Benefits*. All services must be medically necessary. Each benefit plan contains its own specific provisions for coverage, limitations, and exclusions as stated in the member's Evidence of Coverage (EOC)/Schedule of Benefits (SOB). If there is a discrepancy between this policy and the member's EOC/SOB, the member's EOC/SOB provision will govern.