
To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: February 3, 2022

Subject: Informational Bulletin 22-3: Sinus Procedures Policy

Informational Bulletins that summarize policies and/or procedures are intended for quick reference and are accurate on the date they are issued.

Sinus Procedures

Effective **March 9, 2022**, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will cover Balloon ostial dilation and functional endoscopic sinus surgery when considered medically necessary for the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis when all of the following criteria are met:

- Two weeks with at least two of the following sinonasal symptoms:
 - o Facial pain/pressure;
 - o Hyposmia/anosmia;
 - o Nasal obstruction;
 - o Mucopurulent nasal discharge; and
- Sinonasal symptoms that are persistent after maximal medical therapy has been attempted, as defined by all of the following, either sequentially or overlapping:
 - o Saline nasal irrigation for at least six weeks;
 - o Nasal corticosteroids for at least six weeks;
 - o Approved biologics, if applicable, for at least six weeks;
 - o A complete course of antibiotic therapy when an acute bacterial infection is suspected;
 - o Treatment of concomitant allergic rhinitis, if present; and
- Objective evidence of sinonasal inflammation as determined by one of the following:
 - o Nasal endoscopy; or
 - o Computed tomography.

Balloon ostial dilation and functional endoscopic sinus surgery are not covered and not considered medically necessary in the following situations:

- Presence of sinonasal symptoms but no objective evidence of sinonasal disease by nasal

endoscopy or computed tomography;

- For the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea and/or snoring when the above criteria are not met;
- For the treatment of headaches when the above criteria are not met; and
- For balloon ostial dilation only, when sinonasal polyps are present.

This information will be updated in the [AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Handbook](#) no later than **March 9, 2022**.

Questions regarding this message should be directed to AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007. The Provider Services Department can be reached between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily.

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