

## Corporate Medical Policy

### Artificial Pancreas Device Systems

**File Name:** artificial\_pancreas\_device\_systems  
**Origination:** 10/2015  
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**Last Review:** 6/2020

#### Description of Procedure or Service

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Tight glucose control in patients with diabetes has been associated with improved health outcomes. The American Diabetes Association recommends a glycated hemoglobin level below 7% for most patients. However, hypoglycemia may place a limit on the ability to achieve tighter glycemic control. Hypoglycemic events in adults range from mild to severe, based on a number of factors including the glucose nadir, presence of symptoms, and whether the episode can be self-treated or requires help for recovery. Children and adolescents represent a population of type 1 diabetics who have challenges in controlling hyperglycemia and avoiding hypoglycemia. Hypoglycemia is the most common acute complication of type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is caused by the destruction of the pancreatic beta cells which produce insulin, and the necessary mainstay of treatment is insulin injections. Multiple studies have shown that intensive insulin treatment, aimed at tightly controlling blood glucose, reduces the risk of long-term complications of diabetes, such as retinopathy and renal disease. Optimal glycemic control, as assessed by glycated hemoglobin, and avoidance of hyper- and hypoglycemic excursions have been shown to prevent diabetes-related complications. Currently, insulin treatment strategies include either multiple daily insulin injections or continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion with an insulin pump.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) describes the basic design of an artificial pancreas device system (APDS) as a CGM linked to an insulin pump with the capability to automatically stop, reduce, or increase insulin infusion based on specified thresholds of measured interstitial glucose. The APDS components are designed to communicate with each other to automate the process of maintaining blood glucose concentrations at or near a specified range or target and to minimize the incidence and severity of hypoglycemic and hyperglycemic events. An APDS control algorithm is embedded in software in an external processor or controller that receives information from the CGM and performs a series of mathematical calculations. Based on these calculations, the controller sends dosing instructions to the infusion pump.

Different APDS types are currently available for clinical use. Sensor augmented pump therapy (SAPT) with low glucose suspend (LGS) (suspend on low) may reduce the likelihood or severity of a hypoglycemic event by suspending insulin delivery temporarily when the sensor value reaches (reactive) a predetermined lower threshold of measured interstitial glucose. Low glucose suspension (LGS) automatically suspends basal insulin delivery for up to two hours in response to sensor-detected hypoglycemia.

A sensor augmented pump therapy with predictive low glucose management (PLGM) (suspend before low) suspends basal insulin infusion with the prediction of hypoglycemia. Basal insulin infusion is suspended when sensor glucose is at or within 70 mg/dL above the patient-set low limit, and is predicted to be 20 mg/dL above this low limit in 30 minutes. In the absence of a patient

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response, the insulin infusion resumes after a maximum suspend period of two hours. In certain circumstances, auto-resumption parameters may be used.

When a sensor value is above or predicted to remain above the threshold, the infusion pump will not take any action based on CGM readings. Patients using this system still need to monitor their blood glucose concentration, set appropriate basal rates for their insulin pump, and give premeal bolus insulin to control their glucose levels.

A control-to-range system reduces the likelihood or severity of a hypoglycemic or hyperglycemic event by adjusting insulin dosing only if a person's glucose levels reach or approach predetermined higher and lower thresholds. When a patient's glucose concentration is within the specified range, the infusion pump will not take any action based upon CGM readings. Patients using this system still need to monitor their blood glucose concentration, set appropriate basal rates for their insulin pump, and give premeal bolus insulin to control their glucose levels.

A control-to-target system sets target glucose levels and tries to maintain these levels at all times. This system is fully automated and requires no interaction from the user (except for calibration of the CGM). There are two subtypes of control-to-target systems: insulin-only and bihormonal (eg, glucagon). There are no systems administering glucagon marketed in the United States.

An APDS may also be referred to as a “closed-loop” system. A closed-loop system has automated insulin delivery and continuous glucose sensing and insulin delivery without patient intervention. The systems utilize a control algorithm that autonomously and continually increases and decreases the subcutaneous insulin delivery based on real-time sensor glucose levels. There are no completely closed-loop insulin delivery systems marketed in the United States.

A hybrid closed-loop system also uses automated insulin delivery with continuous basal insulin delivery adjustments. However, at mealtime, the patient enters the number of carbohydrates they are eating in order for the insulin pump to determine the bolus meal dose of insulin. A hybrid system option with the patient administration of a premeal or partial premeal insulin bolus can be used in either control-to-range or control-to-target systems.

These systems are regulated by the FDA as class III device systems.

The MiniMed® 530G System includes a threshold suspend or LGS feature. The threshold suspend tool temporarily suspends insulin delivery when the sensor glucose level is at or below a preset threshold within the 60- to 90-mg/dL range. When the glucose value reaches this threshold, an alarm sounds. If patients respond to the alarm, they can choose to continue or cancel the insulin suspend feature. If patients fail to respond, the pump automatically suspends action for two hours, and then insulin therapy resumes.

The MiniMed® 630G System with SmartGuard™, which is similar to the 530G, includes updates to the system components including waterproofing. The threshold suspend feature can be programmed to temporarily suspend delivery of insulin for up to two hours when the sensor glucose value falls below a predefined threshold value. The MiniMed 630G System with SmartGuard™ is not intended to be used directly for making therapy adjustments, but rather to provide an indication of when a finger stick may be required. All therapy adjustments should be based on measurements obtained using a home glucose monitor and not on the values provided by the MiniMed 630G system. The device is not intended to be used directly for preventing or treating hypoglycemia but to suspend insulin delivery when the user is unable to respond to the SmartGuard™ Suspend on Low alarm to take measures to prevent or treat hypoglycemia themselves.

The MiniMed® 670G System is a hybrid closed-loop insulin delivery system consisting of an insulin pump, a glucose meter, and a transmitter, linked by a proprietary algorithm and the SmartGuard Hybrid Closed Loop. The system includes an LGS feature that suspends insulin delivery; this feature either suspends delivery on low-glucose levels or suspends delivery before

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low-glucose levels, and has an optional alarm (manual mode). Additionally, the system allows semiautomatic basal insulin-level adjustment (decrease or increase) to preset targets (automatic mode). As a hybrid system; basal insulin levels are automatically adjusted, but the patient needs to administer premeal insulin boluses. The CGM component of the MiniMed 670G System is not intended to be used directly for making manual insulin therapy adjustments; rather it is to provide an indication of when a glucose measurement should be taken.

The most recent supplemental approval for the MiniMed® 670G System in July 2018 followed the granting a designation of breakthrough device status.

On June 21, 2018, the FDA approved the t:slim X2 Insulin Pump with Basal-IQ Technology (PMA P180008) for individuals who are 6 years of age and older. The System consists of the t:slim X2 Insulin Pump paired with the Dexcom G5 Mobile CGM (Continuous Glucose Monitor), as well as the Basal-IQ Technology. The t:slim X2 Insulin Pump is intended for the subcutaneous delivery of insulin, at set and variable rates, for the management of diabetes mellitus in persons requiring insulin. The t:slim X2 Insulin Pump can be used solely for continuous insulin delivery and as part of the System as the receiver for a therapeutic CGM. The t:slim X2 Insulin Pump running the Basal-IQ Technology can be used to suspend insulin delivery based on CGM sensor readings.

In December 2019, FDA approved the t:slim X2 Insulin Pump with Control-IQ Technology through the De Novo process. The device uses the same pump hardware as the insulin pump component of the systems approved in t:slim X2 Insulin Pump with Basal-IQ Technology. A custom disposable cartridge is motor-driven to deliver patient programmed basal rates and boluses through an infusion set into subcutaneous tissue.

Related Policy:  
Continuous Monitoring of Glucose in the Interstitial Fluid

***\*\*\*Note: This Medical Policy is complex and technical. For questions concerning the technical language and/or specific clinical indications for its use, please consult your physician.***

## Policy

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**BCBSNC will provide coverage for an Artificial Pancreas Device System when it is determined to be medically necessary because the medical criteria and guidelines noted below are met.**

## Benefits Application

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This medical policy relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Please refer to the Member's Benefit Booklet for availability of benefits. Member's benefits may vary according to benefit design; therefore member benefit language should be reviewed before applying the terms of this medical policy.

## When Artificial Pancreas Device Systems are covered

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Use of an FDA-approved automated insulin delivery system with a low glucose suspend feature may be considered medically necessary in patients with type 1 diabetes who meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Age 14 and older
- Glycated hemoglobin level between 5.8% and 10.0%
- Used insulin pump therapy for more than 6 months
- At least 2 documented nocturnal hypoglycemic events in a 2-week period

Use of an FDA-approved automated insulin delivery system (artificial pancreas device system) designated as hybrid closed-loop insulin delivery system (with low glucose suspend and suspend

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before low features) may be considered medically necessary in patients with type 1 diabetes who meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Age 7 and older
- Glycated hemoglobin level between 5.8% and 10.0%
- Used insulin pump therapy for more than 6 months
- At least 2 documented nocturnal hypoglycemic events in a 2-week period.

## **When Artificial Pancreas Device Systems are not covered**

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Use of an artificial pancreas device system is considered investigational in all other situations.

Use of an automated insulin delivery system (artificial pancreas device system) not approved by the FDA is investigational.

## **Policy Guidelines**

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For individuals who have type 1 diabetes who receive an artificial pancreas device system with a low-glucose suspend feature, the evidence includes two randomized controlled trials (RCTs) conducted in home settings. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, morbid events, resource utilization, and treatment-related morbidity. Primary eligibility criteria of the key RCT, the Automation to Simulate Pancreatic Insulin Response (ASPIRE) trial, were ages 16-to-70 years old, type 1 diabetes, glycated hemoglobin levels between 5.8% and 10.0%, and at least 2 nocturnal hypoglycemic events ( $\leq 65$  mg/dL) lasting more than 20 minutes during a 2-week run-in phase. Both trials required at least six months of insulin pump use. Both RCTs reported significantly less hypoglycemia in the treatment group than in the control group. In both trials, primary outcomes were favorable for the group using an artificial pancreas system; however, findings from one trial were limited by nonstandard reporting of hypoglycemic episodes, and findings from the other trial were no longer statistically significant when two outliers (children) were excluded from analysis. The RCT limited to adults showed an improvement in the primary outcome (area under the curve for nocturnal hypoglycemic events). The area under the curve is not used for assessment in clinical practice but the current technology does allow user and provider review of similar trend data with continuous glucose monitoring. Results from the ASPIRE study suggested that there were increased risks of hyperglycemia and potential diabetic ketoacidosis in subjects using the threshold suspend feature. This finding may be related to whether or not actions are taken by the user to assess glycemic status, etiology of the low glucose (activity, diet or medication) and to resume insulin infusion. Both retrospective and prospective observational studies have reported reductions in rates and severity of hypoglycemic episodes in automated insulin delivery system users. The evidence is sufficient that the magnitude of reduction for hypoglycemic events in the type 1 diabetes population is likely to be clinically significant. Limitations of the published evidence preclude determining the effects of the technology on overall glycemic control as assessed by hemoglobin A<sub>1c</sub> (HbA<sub>1c</sub>) and other parameters and thus, net health outcomes. Evidence reported through clinical input supports that the outcome of hypoglycemia prevention provides a clinically meaningful improvement in net health outcome, and this use is consistent with generally accepted medical practice. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have type 1 diabetes who receive an artificial pancreas device system with a hybrid closed-loop insulin delivery system, the evidence includes multicenter pivotal trials using devices cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, supplemental data and analysis for expanded indications and more recent studies focused on children and adolescents. Three crossover RCTs using a similar first-generation device approved outside the United States have been reported. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, morbid events, resource utilization, and treatment-related morbidity. Of the three crossover RCTs assessing a related device conducted outside the United States, two found significantly better outcomes (ie, time spent in nocturnal hypoglycemia and time spent in preferred glycemic range) with the device than with

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standard care and the other had mixed findings (significant difference in time spent in nocturnal hypoglycemia and no significant difference in time spent in preferred glycemic range). For the U.S. regulatory registration pivotal trial, the primary outcomes were safety and not efficacy. Additional evidence from device performance studies and clinical studies all demonstrate reductions in time spent in various levels of hypoglycemia, improved time in range (70-180 mg/dl), rare diabetic ketoacidosis and few device-related adverse events. The evidence is sufficient that the magnitude of reduction for hypoglycemic events in the type 1 diabetes population is likely to be clinically significant. The variations in the definition of primary and secondary outcomes in the study design and conduct of the published evidence are limitations that preclude determining the effects of the technology on net health outcomes. Evidence reported through clinical input supports that the use of hybrid closed loop artificial pancreas device systems provides a clinically meaningful improvement in net health outcome and is consistent with generally accepted medical practice. Reduction in the experience of hypoglycemia and inappropriate awareness of hypoglycemia and glycemic excursions were identified as important acute clinical outcomes in children, adolescents, and adults and are related to the future risk for end-organ complications. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

In 2020, The American Diabetes Association recommendation includes automated insulin delivery systems may be considered in children (>7 years) and adults with type 1 diabetes to improve glycemic control.

## Billing/Coding/Physician Documentation Information

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This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed. For further information on reimbursement guidelines, please see Administrative Policies on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina web site at [www.bcbsnc.com](http://www.bcbsnc.com). They are listed in the Category Search on the Medical Policy search page.

*Applicable codes: 95250, 95251, A4226, E0787, S1034, S1035, S1036, S1037*

*Requests for an upgraded device (hybrid closed loop system) must include physician documentation indicating rationale for necessity of the upgrade if the existing device is still under warranty.*

BCBSNC may request medical records for determination of medical necessity. When medical records are requested, letters of support and/or explanation are often useful, but are not sufficient documentation unless all specific information needed to make a medical necessity determination is included.

## Scientific Background and Reference Sources

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Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Types of Artificial Pancreas Device Systems. <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/ArtificialPancreas/ucm259555.htm> . Accessed June 29, 2015.

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield Technology Evaluation Center (TEC). Artificial Pancreas Device Systems. TEC Assessments. 2013;Volume 28:Tab 14

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Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 06/2020

## Policy Implementation/Update Information

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| 10/1/15  | New policy issued. Use of an FDA-approved artificial pancreas device system with a low glucose suspend feature may be considered medically necessary in patients with type 1 diabetes who meet criteria. (sk)   |
| 1/26/16  | References added. Policy Guidelines updated. (sk)   |
| 8/30/16  | Specialty Matched Consultant Panel Review meeting 7/27/2016. No change to policy statement. (an)  |
| 12/30/16 | Revised description section to include information regarding two new artificial pancreas device systems. Coverage statement revised to read: "Use of an FDA-approved artificial pancreas device system with a low glucose suspend feature, <u>with or without semi-automatic adjustment of basal insulin levels</u> , may be considered medically necessary in patients with type 1 diabetes who meet <b>ALL</b> of the following criteria..." Policy Guidelines section was updated. The following statement was added to the Billing/Coding section: <i>Requests for an upgraded device (hybrid closed loop system) must include physician documentation indicating rationale for necessity of the upgrade if the existing device is still under warranty.</i> (an) |
| 8/11/17  | Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review meeting 7/26/2017. (an)  |
| 3/9/18   | Minor editorial revisions in Description section. Moved definition of nocturnal hypoglycemic event from Policy Guidelines section to the When Covered section. Updated Policy Guidelines. References added. No change to coverage criteria. (an)  |
| 7/27/18  | Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/27/2018. No change to policy statement. (an)   |

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- 7/16/19 Description Section revised to include new devices. Coverage criteria revised to change age from 16 to 14 and definition of nocturnal hypoglycemia removed. Statement added to Non-Covered criteria: Use of an automated insulin delivery system (artificial pancreas device system) not approved by the FDA is investigational. Policy Guidelines updated and reference added. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/19/2019. (eel)
- 7/14/20 References added. Added A4226 and E0787 to Coding section. Policy Guideline and Description updated. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/17/2020. When covered criteria statement added for coverage of hybrid closed-loop system. (eel)

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Medical policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the group contract and subscriber certificate that is in effect at the time services are rendered. This document is solely provided for informational purposes only and is based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Medical practices and knowledge are constantly changing and BCBSNC reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically.