

Sinus procedures policy

Summary of change:

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has issued a **policy** for sinus procedures. Effective March 9, 2022, Healthy Blue will cover sinus the following sinus procedures when all required medical criteria are met.

Sinus procedures

Balloon ostial dilation and functional endoscopic sinus surgery are considered medically necessary for the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis when **all of the following criteria are met**:

- Uncomplicated chronic rhinosinusitis limited to the paranasal sinuses without the involvement of adjacent neurological, soft tissue, or bony structures that has persisted for at least 12 weeks with at least two of the following sinonasal symptoms:
 - Facial pain/pressure
 - Hyposmia/anosmia
 - Nasal obstruction
 - Mucopurulent nasal discharge
- Sinonasal symptoms that are persistent after maximal medical therapy has been attempted, as defined by **all of the following**, either sequentially or overlapping:
 - Saline nasal irrigation for at least six weeks
 - Nasal corticosteroids for at least six weeks
 - Approved biologics, if applicable, for at least six weeks
 - A complete course of antibiotic therapy when an acute bacterial infection is suspected
 - Treatment of concomitant allergic rhinitis, if present
- Objective evidence of sinonasal inflammation as determined by one of the following:
 - Nasal endoscopy
 - 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
- For balloon ostial dilation only, when sinonasal polyps are present

Healthy Blue is updating our provider manual to reflect this updated policy by March 2, 2022.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **844-521-6942**.

<https://provider.healthybluelouisiana.com>

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BLAPEC-2923-22 February 2022

If you file claims with Louisiana Medicaid, you must enroll in the new Medicaid Provider Enrollment Portal by March 31, 2022, to continue being reimbursed.

Enrollment can take two to four weeks after submission to be processed, so we strongly recommend you submit your enrollment no later than March 1, 2022.

To help expedite your enrollment process, have information on hand to complete questions around disclosure of ownership. Start your enrollment using the QR code to the right, or via the online form (www.ldh.la.gov/medicaidproviderenrollment).



If you have any questions or concerns, contact Louisiana Medicaid:

- Email: LouisianaProvEnroll@gainwelltechnologies.com
- Phone: **833-641-2140** (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT)