

An Employer's Guide to Cancer Treatment & Prevention



Stem Cell Transplant Criteria

Employers should evaluate the Transplant Centers of Excellence (COE) Program(s) they offer to employees, whether as part of their health plan's transplant program or through another organization. A Transplant COE Program should establish and apply rigorous criteria in the evaluation and qualification of stem cell transplant (SCT)* programs. Pediatric-specific criteria should be used to evaluate pediatric SCT programs. At a minimum, the evaluation process should include assessment of SCT programs in the following categories:

1. Clinical structure
 - a. Facility-related accreditations (i.e., The Joint Commission, FACT**)
 - b. NMDP** network guidelines met if unrelated allogeneic transplants are provided
 - c. Physician credentialing, including appropriate Board certification and experience in stem cell transplantation
 - d. Clinical trial group participation
 - e. Availability of comprehensive specialty services. Pediatric SCT programs should have pediatric-specific specialists and support services.
 - f. Clinical transplant coordinator(s) and patient advocate(s)/social worker(s)
2. Processes
 - a. Established patient selection criteria and formal patient selection process
 - b. Use of treatment protocols and guidelines
 - c. Collection of data and reporting of transplant outcomes to CIBMTR
 - d. Process for tracking patients post-transplant
 - e. SCT-specific clinical quality initiatives
3. Volume and Outcomes
 - a. Years of experience for the SCT program, clinical program leadership and individual transplant physicians
 - b. Minimum volume by type of transplant (i.e., autologous and allogeneic) and age group (i.e., adult and pediatric)
 - c. Minimum survival rates by type of transplant and age group required for participation

* The term "stem cell transplant" applies to transplants using stem cells derived from bone marrow, peripheral blood or cord blood. This term is now more often used than bone marrow transplant.

** The Joint Commission (formerly JCAHO) is an accreditation body for several types of healthcare organizations, including hospitals. FACT (Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy) accredits stem cell transplant programs, marrow and peripheral blood collection and processing centers. NMDP (National Marrow Donor Program) evaluates stem cell transplant programs that provide allogeneic (unrelated donor) transplants, provides services to identify potential matched unrelated donors, arranges for transplants using stem cells from unrelated donors and offers other, related services. See www.marrow.org