

CHAIN – Medical Subspecialty Services Referral Program

Referral Overlay Criteria

This overlay criteria for specialty referrals is intended to serve as a basic guide and does not include all possible cases for appropriate HIV- and AIDS-related referrals. In situations that are not specifically addressed by this overlay, the program's Medical Director will make a determination for the appropriateness of the referral based on DHSP contractual agreements, scope of covered services, medical records, peer reviewed medical journals or nationally recognized references in HIV medicine.

Specialty Service	Referral Criteria	Specialty Service Covered Testing and Procedures
1. Colorectal/ Proctology	Anal cancer, anal fissures, anal warts, peri-rectal abscesses	Flexible sigmoidoscopy, anal fistula repair, I&D, wart removal, biopsy
2. Cardiology	HIV-related cardiac conditions (dilated cardiomyopathy, endocarditis, pericarditis, valvular disease), chest pain suspicious for underlying coronary artery disease	EKG, echocardiogram and stress testing
3. Dermatology	Dysmorphic lipodystrophy, HIV-associated chronic skin lesions refractory to therapy, Kaposi Sarcoma (KS), molluscum, seborrheic dermatitis	Minor procedures, excision, biopsy, intralesional chemotherapy, circumscribed radiation therapy for isolated KS if failed Penretin
4. Urology	Recurrent urinary tract infections, voiding dysfunction, hematuria	Cystoscopy, renal ultrasound; prostate biopsy not covered
5. Gastro-Intestinal	Chronic diarrhea, dysphagia and/or odynophagia, esophagitis associated with AIDS opportunistic infections, anorectal disease, GI lymphoma, GI Kaposi Sarcoma, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, refractory GERD	EGD, colonoscopy, swallow study, esophageal manometry, ERCP, biopsy

Specialty Service	Referral Criteria	Specialty Service Covered Testing and Procedures
6. Surgery	Hernia, abscess, wounds	Hernia repair, I&D, excisional biopsy, wound care, line placement <i>Note: Must be performed on an outpatient basis.</i>
7. ENT	Head and neck tumors and malignancies, chronic sinusitis, chronic otitis media, chronic pharyngitis, hearing loss related to an HIV-associated condition	Ultrasound guided biopsy, nasopharyngeal endoscope, audiology testing only provided at an ENT office
8. Neurology	AIDS dementia complex, carpal tunnel syndrome, HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders, neurosyphilis, vacuolar myelopathy, PML, neurologic manifestations of AIDS opportunistic infections (cryptococcus, toxoplasmosis, CMV), PML	Nerve conduction study, lumbar puncture, MRI brain/spine
9. Gynecology	HPV-related cytopathologic abnormalities including cervical cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, recurrent vaginal yeast infections	Colposcopy, pelvic ultrasound
10. Oncology	History of Kaposi Sarcoma, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, HPV-related cancers (cervical and anal)	Chemotherapy related injections used to treat covered oncology cases not covered by ADAP, biopsy, bone marrow biopsy
11. Pain Management	HIV neuropathy, post herpetic neuralgia, chronic refractory pain related to HIV/AIDS	Nerve conduction study, epidural injections
12. Nephrology	HIV-associated nephropathy, renal failure resulting from HIV-related conditions	Renal ultrasound, renal biopsy <i>Note: Dialysis not covered.</i>

Specialty Service	Referral Criteria	Specialty Service Covered Testing and Procedures
13. Endocrine	Adrenal insufficiency, hypogonadism, diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid disease	Ultrasound-guided biopsy, bone mineral density scan
14. Orthopedic Surgery	Avascular necrosis, work up for septic joint, outpatient management of HIV-related pathologic fractures	CT, MRI <i>Note: Joint replacement not covered.</i>
15. Podiatry	Diabetic-related foot care and infections	Minor procedures
16. Rheumatology	Septic arthritis, myositis, fibromyalgia, reactive arthritis, vasculitis	Joint aspiration, intra-articular injections
17. Pulmonary	Pulmonary opportunistic infections and related complications	Thoracentesis, CT, CXR, pulmonary function test
18. Ophthalmology	CMV retinitis, HIV retinopathy, varicella-related infections	Intraocular anti-viral injections or implants, vitrectomy, endolaser photocoagulation, debridement
19. Hepatology	HIV/hepatitis B co-infection, workup of HIV/hepatitis C co-infection, medical management of cirrhosis related to HIV hepatitis(B or C) co-infection, liver disease due to AIDS opportunistic infections, HIV-related treatment hepatitis	Liver(RUQ) ultrasound, staging liver biopsy, liver CT or MRI
Additional Covered Outpatient Procedures & Testing when appropriate	CT, MRI, X-rays, muscle biopsy, ultrasound, fine needle aspiration, blood tests	

References:

- National Institute of Neurological Disorders
- National Cancer Institute
- HIVinsite.ucsf.edu
- American College of Rheumatology