	<b>Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation</b>	
	<b>Policy Number: POL-PP-123</b>	<b>Original Creation Date 3/1/2020</b>
	<b>Version Number: 07</b>	<b>Version Effective Date 3/1/2020</b>
	<b>Policy Status: Active</b>	<b>Next Review Date 3/1/2027</b>

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Blue KC reserves the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to: <https://providers.bluekc.com/ContactUs/PaymentPolicies>.

<b>PROVIDER/ENTITY IMPACTED</b>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PROFESSIONAL</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>FACILITY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DME</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>AMBULATORY SURGERY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>LAB</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER</b>

<b>LINES OF BUSINESS IMPACTED</b>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>BLUE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ACA QHP<sup>1</sup></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>SMALL GROUP ACA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>JAA<sup>2</sup></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>FEP<sup>3</sup></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DENTAL</b>

<sup>1</sup> ACA QHP: Affordable Care Act Qualified Health Plan for Individual/Family    <sup>2</sup> JAA: Joint Administrative Account    <sup>3</sup> FEP: Federal Employee Program

**Disclaimer**

Blue KC has developed Provider Payment Policies to provide guidance on payment methodologies as they pertain to submitted claims. These policies are written following industry standard recommendations from sources such as:

- Current Procedural Terminology
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- American Medical Association
- National Correct Coding Initiative
- Other professional organizations and societies

Coverage of any service is determined by date of service, a member's eligibility and benefit limits for the service or services rendered, all terms of the Provider Service Agreement, and other standards of coding rules and guidelines.

Final payment is subject to the application of claims adjudication and edits common to the industry.

For confirmation of which services may be eligible for coverage and description of when medical services are considered medically necessary, not medically necessary, or investigational, please contact:

- Blue KC Provider Hotline for Commercial lines of Business 816-395-3929
- Affordable Care Act Provider Hotline 866-859-3822
- Blue Medicare Advantage Provider Hotline 866-508-7140

In the event of a conflict between any policies, the Member's coverage document will govern.

**Description/Application**

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), also known as extracorporeal life support, is an extracorporeal technique of providing prolonged cardiac and respiratory support to persons whose heart and lungs are unable to provide an adequate amount of gas exchange or perfusion to sustain life.

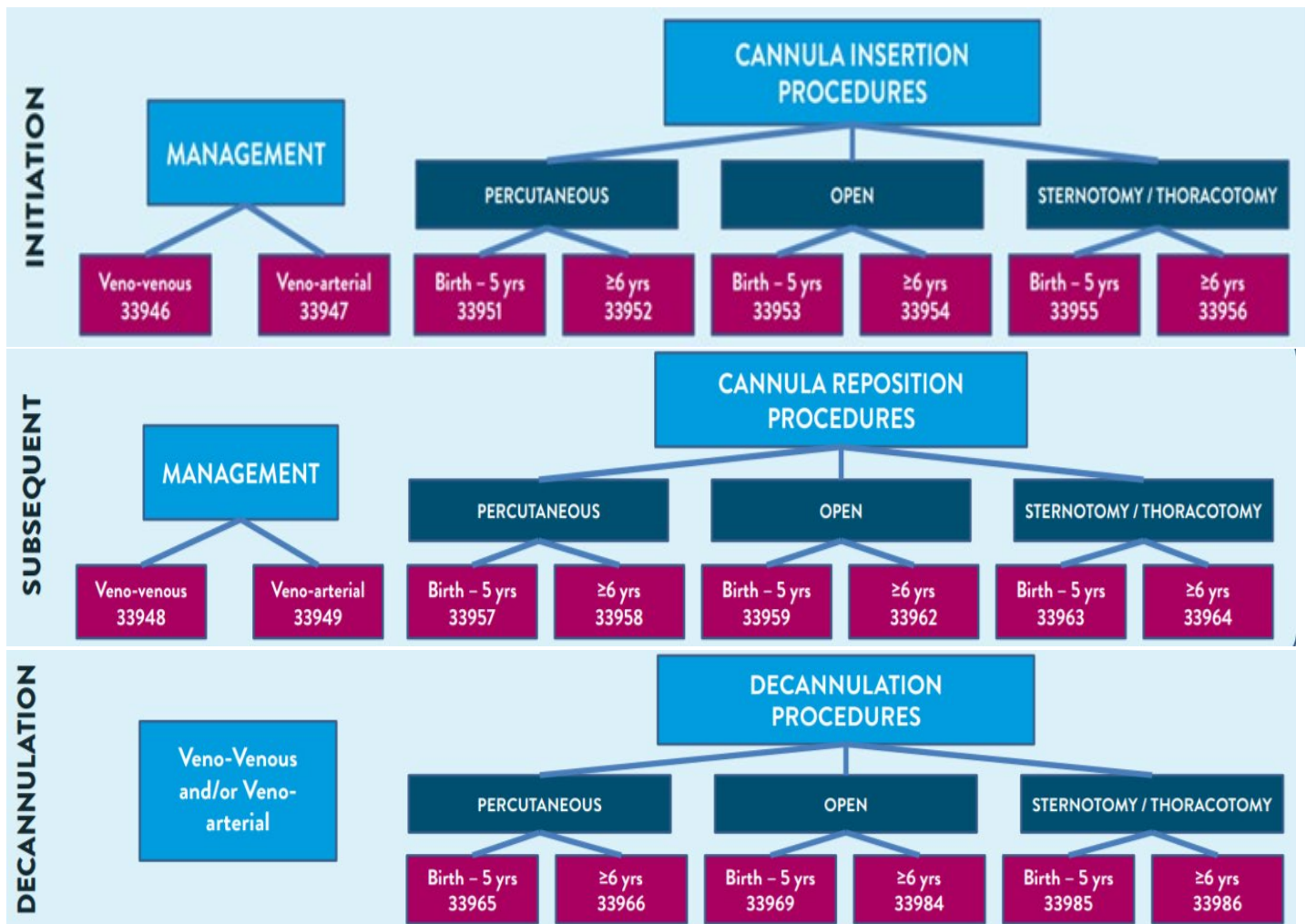
Policy

There are two methods in ECMO/ECLS:

- Veno-arterial extracorporeal life support (support heart and lung) one cannula is placed in a large vein and one cannula in a large artery.
- Veno-venous extracorporeal life support (lung support only), one or two cannulas are placed in a vein.

Services related to the cannulation, initiation, management, and discontinuation of the ECMO/ECLS circuit and parameters are distinct from the daily overall management of the patient.

Typically, people are supported by an ECMO machine for a few hours to days, but may require it for weeks, depending on how their condition progresses.



The daily overall management of the patient is a factor that will vary depending on the patient’s age, disease process, and condition. Daily overall management of the patient may be separately reported using the relevant hospital observation services, hospital inpatient services, or critical care evaluation and management codes.

ECMO/ELS management codes should not be reported on the same day as initiation of ECMO.

The ECMO machine in the inpatient setting is considered capital equipment and is reimbursed as part of the room and board.

**Coding**

Codes	Description
33946	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; initiation, Veno-venous
33947	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; initiation, Veno - arterial
33948	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; daily management, each day, Veno-venous
33949	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; daily management, each day, venoarterial
33951	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; insertion of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), percutaneous, birth through 5 years of age (includes fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33952	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; insertion of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), percutaneous, 6 years and older (includes fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33953	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; insertion of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), open, birth through 5 years of age
33954	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; insertion of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), open, 6 years and older
33955	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; insertion of central cannula(e) by sternotomy or thoracotomy, birth through 5 years of age
33956	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; insertion of central cannula(e) by sternotomy or thoracotomy, 6 years and older
33957	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; reposition peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), percutaneous, birth through 5 years of age (including fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33958	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; reposition peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), percutaneous, 6 years and older (includes fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33959	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; reposition peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), open, birth through 5 years of age (includes fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33962	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; reposition peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), open, 6 years and older (includes fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)

33963	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; reposition of central cannula(e) by sternotomy or thoracotomy, birth through 5 years of age (includes fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33964	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; reposition central cannula(e) by sternotomy or thoracotomy, 6 years and older (including fluoroscopic guidance, when performed)
33965	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; removal of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), percutaneous, birth through 5 years of age
33966	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; removal of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), percutaneous, 6 years and older
33969	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; removal of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), open, birth through 5 years of age
33984	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; removal of peripheral (arterial and/or venous) cannula(e), open, 6 years and older
33985	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; removal of central cannula(e) by sternotomy or thoracotomy, birth through 5 years of age
33986	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)/extracorporeal life support (ECLS) provided by physician; removal of central cannula(e) by sternotomy or thoracotomy, 6 years and older

**References and Resources**

Blue KC Provide Reference Guide  
 American Medical Association

**Related Documents**

N/A

**Revision History**

Version	Date	Summary of Revisions
001	3/1/2020	Initial Version
002	3/1/2021	Annual review, there were no changes or updates made to the policy.
003	3/1/2022	Annual review update- added table for coding ECMO initiation, subsequent and decannulation.
004	3/1/2023	Annual review, there were no changes or updates made to the policy.
005	3/1/2024	Annual review, there were no changes or updates made to the policy.
006	3/1/2025	Annual review, there were no changes or updates made to the policy.
007	3/1/2026	Annual review, there were no changes or updates made to the policy.