



## MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT

### Nevada Marketplace

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy-NV MP-MM-1774	01/01/2026
Policy Type	
MEDICAL	

Medical Policy Statements are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased, or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other plan policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. Except as otherwise required by law, if there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract, then the plan contract will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

### Table of Contents

A. Subject.....	2
B. Background.....	2
C. Definitions .....	3
D. Policy .....	4
E. Conditions of Coverage.....	4
F. Related Policies/Rules .....	4
G. Review/Revision History.....	4
H. References.....	4

A. Subject  
**Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy**

B. Background

Patients with digestive system or ovary cancer have an increased risk of developing peritoneal metastases (PM). Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) is part of a multimodal treatment plan for PM. It is employed within the peritoneal cavity following cytoreductive surgery (CRS) of the abdominal cavity through a traditional open or laparoscopic approach. The hyperthermic agents are heated to 40 – 42 degrees Celsius. Hyperthermia is selectively lethal for malignant cells and the effects of heat can be synergistic with those of other anticancer treatments such as chemotherapy. This infusion facilitates the spread of the chemotherapeutic solution throughout the entire peritoneal cavity, avoiding compartmentalized spread that would be likely following post-operative adhesion formation.

Cytotoxic drugs most frequently used in HIPEC include mitomycin, doxorubicin, cisplatin, oxaliplatin and paclitaxel. These drugs are combined with a carrier of isotonic saline solutions or dextrose-based peritoneal dialysis solutions. Approximately 3 to 5 liters are infused into the peritoneum during the procedure.

The extent of tumor load is estimated through imaging methods, usually by computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or preoperative laparoscopy. To describe peritoneal carcinomatosis with a universally accepted reference standard, the Peritoneal Cancer Index (PCI) was introduced initially for carcinomatosis of colorectal cancer and mesothelioma. PCI is calculated as the sum of scores in 13 abdominal regions. Each region receives a score of 0-3 based on the largest tumor size. Scores range from 0 to 39, with higher scores indicating more widespread and/or larger tumors in the peritoneal cavity. In colorectal cancer, PCI is the most important prognostic factor, showing a linear relationship with overall survival. A consensus on a cutoff value for treatment has not been clearly established. However, surgery is not recommended for patients who have colorectal carcinomatosis with a PCI higher than 20. In ovarian cancer, assessment of PCI is not a standard of care in clinical practice or in surgical studies. However, van Driel et al (2018) conducted a Phase III study to investigate whether the addition of HIPEC to interval CRS would improve outcomes among patients who were receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy for stage III epithelial ovarian cancer. The median recurrence free survival was 10.7 months in the surgery group and 14.2 months in the surgery plus-HIPEC group. Seventy-six patients (62%) in the surgery group and 61 patients (50%) in the surgery-plus-HIPEC group had died at a median follow-up of 4.7 years (hazard ratio, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.48 to 0.94; P=0.02). The median overall survival was 33.9 months in the surgery group and 45.7 months in the surgery-plus-HIPEC group.

HIPEC is completed with an open or closed abdominal technique. The open abdominal technique occurs at the end of CRS and peritoneal catheters are placed through the

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

abdominal wall. The skin edges are suspended through use of a self-retaining retractor to maintain the open space in the abdominal cavity. The temperature probes are attached to the skin edge for intraperitoneal temperature monitoring. To prevent leakage of the chemotherapy solution, a plastic sheet is placed. The surgeon continuously manipulates the perfusion to allow the uniform exposure of all anatomical structures to heat and chemotherapy. An external pump recirculates the chemotherapy infusion through inflow and outflow catheters.

In a closed HIPEC procedure (which is more commonly used), the peritoneal catheters and probes are placed in the same way, but the laparotomy incision and skin edges are closed to permit perfusion through a closed circuit. The surgeon manually shakes the abdominal wall during the infusion for uniform heat distribution. Greater perfusate is used in this technique to establish the circuit and generate higher abdominal pressure, which facilitates tissue penetration. After infusion, the abdomen is reopened to remove the perfusate, catheters, and to complete any additional surgical procedures needed (eg, anastomosis).

### C. Definitions

- **Abdominal Cavity** – A cavity within the abdomen, and continuous with the pelvic cavity that contains the stomach with lower portion of the esophagus, small and large intestines, liver, gallbladder, spleen, pancreas, kidney, and ureter.
- **Carcinomatosis** – The condition of having widespread dissemination of carcinoma in the body.
- **Cytoreductive Surgery (CRS)** – The removal of all sites of cancer within the abdominal cavity.
- **Debulking Surgery** – The surgical removal of as much of a tumor as possible. Debulking may increase the chance that chemotherapy or radiation therapy will kill all the tumor cells. It may also be done to relieve symptoms or help the patient live longer. Also called tumor debulking.
- **Hyperthermic Perfusion** – A procedure in which a warmed solution containing anticancer drugs is used to bathe, or is passed through the blood vessels of, the tissue or organ containing the tumor.
- **Mesothelioma** – A cancer that affects tissue called the mesothelium, a lining that covers and protects many internal organs. Pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma account for most of the 2,000 to 3,000 new cases of the disease diagnosed in the United States each year. The most common cause of mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos.
- **Peritoneum** – The serous membrane lining the abdominal cavity and covering the abdominal organs.
- **Peritoneal Metastasis** – A late-stage manifestation of intra-abdominal malignancies.
- **Pseudomyxoma Peritonei (PMP)** – A build-up of mucus in the peritoneal cavity. The mucus may come from ruptured ovarian cysts, from the appendix, or from other abdominal tissues. Mucus secreting cells may attach to the peritoneal lining and

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

continue to secrete mucus.

#### D. Policy

- I. CareSource considers HIPEC in combination with CRS medically necessary for **ANY** of the following indications:
  - A. Pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP).
  - B. Appendiceal neoplasms with PMP/mucinous ascites.
  - C. Diffuse malignant peritoneal mesothelioma (DPM) with metastasis limited to the abdominal cavity.
  - D. Select patients with metastatic colorectal cancer with peritoneal involvement, with a PCI <20, no extra-abdominal metastasis, and in conjunction with planned or prior systemic therapy.
  - E. Stage III epithelial ovarian cancer or fallopian tube carcinoma at the time of interval debulking surgery with stable disease after neoadjuvant chemotherapy.
- II. HIPEC is considered experimental and investigational for indications not listed above due to insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed literature. There is insufficient evidence to recommend HIPEC with CRS for the prevention of or for the treatment of gastric carcinoma and other malignancies outside of a clinical trial.

#### E. Conditions of Coverage

N/A

#### F. Related Policies/Rules

Experimental and Investigational Item or Service

#### G. Review/Revision History

DATE		ACTION
Date Issued	06/18/2025	Approved at Committee.
Date Revised		
Date Effective	01/01/2026	
Date Archived		

#### H. References

1. Ahmed S, Stewart JH, Shen P, Votanopoulos KI, Levine EA. Outcomes with cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC for peritoneal metastasis. *J Surg Oncol*. 2014;110(5):575-84. doi:10.1002/jso.23749
2. Auer RC, Sivajohanathan D, Biagi J, Conner J, Kennedy E, May T. Indications for hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy with cytoreductive surgery: a clinical practice guideline. *Curr Oncol*. 2020;27(3):146-154. doi:10.3747/co.27.6033
3. Auer RC, Sivajohanathan D, Biagi J, et al. Indications for hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy with cytoreductive surgery: A systematic review. *Eur J Cancer*. 2020;127:76-95. doi:10.1016/j.ejca.2019.10.034

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

4. Ben Aziz M, Di Napoli R. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy. *StatPearls*. StatPearls Publishing; 2024. Accessed May 21, 2025. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)
5. Bruer E, Hebeisen M, Schneider MA, et al. Site of recurrence and survival after surgery for colorectal peritoneal metastasis. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2021;113(8):djab001. doi:10.1093/jnci/djab001
6. Ceelen W, Demuytere J, de Hingh I. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy: a critical review. *Cancers*. 2021;13(13):3114. doi:10.3390/cancers13133114
7. Chicago Consensus Working Group. The Chicago Consensus on peritoneal surface malignancies: management of appendiceal neoplasms. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2020;27:1753-1760. doi:10.1245/s10434-020-08316-w
8. Chicago Consensus Working Group. The Chicago Consensus on peritoneal surface malignancies: management of peritoneal mesothelioma. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2020;27:1774-1779. doi:10.1245/s10434-020-08324-w
9. Chicago Consensus Working Group. The Chicago Consensus on peritoneal surface malignancies: management of colorectal metastases. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2020;27:1761-1767. doi:10.1245/s10434-020-08315-x
10. Chicago Consensus Working Group. The Chicago Consensus on peritoneal surface malignancies: management of ovarian neoplasms. *Cancer*. 2020;126:2553-2560. doi:10.1002/cncr.32867
11. Cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC offers effective treatment for selected patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis. Mayo Clinic. February 15, 2018. Accessed May 21, 2025. [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)
12. Esquivel J, Arjona-Sanchez A. American Society of Peritoneal Surface Malignancies (ASPSM) multi-institution evaluation of laparoscopic cytoreductive surgery and heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). *J Am Coll Surg*. 2017;225(4):S2:e48. doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2017.07.647
13. Filis P, Kanellopoulou A, Gogadis A, et al. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for management of gastrointestinal and biliary tract malignancies: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials. *Ann Gastroentero*. 2023;36(1):87-96. doi:10.20524/aog.2023.0758
14. González-Moreno S, González-Bayón LA, Ortega-Pérez G. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy: rationale and technique. *World J Gastrointest Oncol*. 2010;2(2):68-75. doi:10.4251/wjgo.v2.i2.68
15. Harper MM, Kim J, Pandalai PK. Current trends in cytoreductive surgery (CRS) and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for peritoneal disease from appendiceal and colorectal malignancies. *J Clin Med*. 2022;11(10):2840. doi:10.3390/jcm11102840
16. Health Technology Assessment: Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy for Peritoneal Carcinomatosis Resulting From Ovarian Cancer. Hayes Inc; 2019. Reviewed September 14, 2022. Accessed May 21, 2025. [www.evidence.hayesinc.com](http://www.evidence.hayesinc.com)
17. Health Technology Assessment: Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy for Sarcoma With Peritoneal Involvement. Hayes Inc; 2019. Reviewed March 7, 2023. Accessed May 21, 2025. [www.evidence.hayesinc.com](http://www.evidence.hayesinc.com)

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

18. Health Technology Assessment: Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy for Peritoneal Carcinomatosis Resulting From Peritoneal Mesothelioma. Hayes Inc; 2019. Reviewed January 27, 2023. Accessed May 21, 2025. [www.evidence.hayesinc.com](http://www.evidence.hayesinc.com)
19. Jónsdóttir B, Lomnytska M, Poromaa IS, Silins I, Ståhlberg K. The Peritoneal Cancer Index is a strong predictor of incomplete cytoreductive surgery in ovarian cancer. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2021;28(1):244-251. doi:10.1245/s10434-020-08649-6
20. Lewis AL, Dabo-Trubelja A. Anesthesia for cytoreductive surgery with heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy. UpToDate. Updated August 23, 2023. Accessed May 21, 2025. [www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com)
21. Li CY, Kennedy T, Alexander HR. Treatment of patients with malignant peritoneal mesothelioma. *J Clin Med.* 2022;11(7):1891. doi:10.3390/jcm11071891
22. Lim MC, Chang SJ, Park B, et al. Survival after hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy and primary or interval cytoreductive surgery in ovarian cancer: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Surg.* 2022;157(5):374-383. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2022.0143
23. Moaven O, Votanopoulos KI, Shen P, et al. Health-related quality of life after cytoreductive surgery/HIPEC for mucinous appendiceal cancer: results of a multicenter randomized trial comparing oxaliplatin and mitomycin. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2020;27(3):772-780. doi:10.1245/s10434-019-08064-6
24. Pereira F, Serrano A, Manzanedo I, et al. GECOP-MMC: phase IV randomized clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) with mitomycin-C after complete surgical cytoreduction in patients with colon cancer peritoneal metastases. 2022;22(1):536. doi:10.1186/s12885-022-09572-7
25. Rudloff U, Langan RC, Mullinax JE, et al. Impact of maximal cytoreductive surgery plus regional heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) on outcome of patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis of gastric origin: results of the GYMSSA trial. *J Surg Oncol.* 2014;110(3):275-284. doi:10.1002/jso.23633
26. Turner KM, Morris MC, Sohal D, et al. Cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for colorectal peritoneal metastases: a summary of key clinical trials. *J Clin Med.* 2022;11(12):3406. doi:10.3390/jcm11123406
27. van Driel WJ, Koole SN, Sikorska K, et al. Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy in ovarian cancer. *N Engl J Med.* 2018;378(3):230-240. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1708618
28. Yi Yap DR, Si Min Wong, j, Tan QX, et al. Effect of HIPEC on peritoneal recurrence in peritoneal metastasis treated with cytoreductive surgery: a systematic review. *Front Oncol.* 2021;11:1-12. doi:10.3389/fonc.2021.795390
29. Zwanenburg ES, Klaver CE, Wisselink DD, et al; COLOPEC Collaborators Group. Adjuvant hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy in patients with locally advanced colon cancer (COLOPEC): 5-year results of a randomized multicenter trial. *J Clin Oncol.* 2024;10:42(2):140-145. doi:10.1200/JCO.22.02644

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.