TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (TAC)

In performing a technology assessment, the Medical Policy Committee (MPC) reviews the technology using the following five TAC, developed by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA). Specifically,

a) The technology must have final approval from the appropriate government regulatory bodies.
   - This criterion applies to drugs, biological products, devices and any other product or procedure that must have final approval to market from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or any other federal governmental body with authority to regulate the use of the new technology.
   - Any approval that is granted as an interim step in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's or any other federal governmental body's regulatory process is not sufficient.

b) The scientific evidence must permit conclusions concerning the effect of the technology on health outcomes.
   - The evidence should consist of well-designed and well-conducted investigations published in peer-reviewed journals. The quality of the body of studies and the consistency of the results are considered in evaluating the evidence.
   - The evidence should demonstrate that the technology can measure or alter the physiological changes related to a disease, injury, illness, or condition. In addition, there should be evidence, or a convincing argument based on established medical facts that such measurement or alteration affects health outcomes.

c) The technology must improve the net health outcomes.
   - The technology's beneficial effects on health outcomes should outweigh any harmful effects on health outcomes.

d) The technology must be as beneficial as any established alternatives.
   - The technology should improve the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.

e) The improvement must be attainable outside investigational settings.
   - When used under the usual conditions of medical practice, the technology should be reasonably expected to satisfy criteria "c" and "d", above.