Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member’s plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member’s plan document, the member’s plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare and Minnesota Health Care Programs, this policy will apply unless those programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

Coverage Policy

Urethral bulking agents which are FDA approved for stress incontinence are COVERED as a second line treatment for urinary incontinence due to sphincter deficiency or congenital anomalies.

Note: This policy is no longer scheduled for routine review of the scientific literature.

Description

Urethral bulking agents are prosthetic devices used to treat stress urinary incontinence when the urethral sphincter is not able to contract sufficiently to hold back urine in the bladder. Implantation sites vary depending upon the mode of action of a particular agent, but are generally injected into the submucosal tissues of the urethra. Some agents may be injected into the bladder neck and/or into tissues adjacent to the urethra to add bulk to the bladder neck. This is intended to narrow the sphincter and increase resistance in order to reduce or eliminate urinary incontinence.

Urethral bulking agents are intended only for patients who have shown no improvement in their incontinence for at least 12 months. Maximum effectiveness may require several injections over a period of time.

FDA Approval

The Contigen®/Bard® Collagen Implant (C. R. Bard, Inc., Murray Hill, NJ) received initial FDA approval on September 30, 1993 as a Class III device. Approval was granted for the treatment of urinary incontinence due to intrinsic sphincter deficiency that may be helped by a locally injected bulking agent. Supplemental approvals have been granted for the device.

Durasphere™ Injectable Bulking Agent (Advanced UroScience, Inc., St. Paul MN) received initial FDA approval on September 13, 1999, as a Class III device intended for the treatment of “adult women with stress urinary incontinence (SUI) due to intrinsic sphincter deficiency (ISD).” Supplemental approvals have been granted for the device.

Prior Authorization
Prior authorization is not required.

Coding Considerations
Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT Codes:
- 51715 - Endoscopic injection of implant material into the submucosal tissues of the urethra and/or bladder neck

HCPC Codes:
- L8603 - Injectable bulking agent, collagen implant, urinary tract, 2.5 ml syringe, includes shipping and necessary supplies
- L8604 - Injectable bulking agent, dextranomer/hyaluronic acid copolymer implant, urinary tract, 1 ml, includes shipping and necessary supplies
- L8606 - Injectable bulking agent, synthetic implant, urinary tract, 1 ml syringe, includes shipping and necessary supplies

Original Effective Date: 12/1/2002

Re-Review Date(s):
- 8/23/2005
- 2/20/2008
- 4/20/2011
- 5/21/2014
- 6/21/2017
- 3/16/2020 – administrative update; format