

**Medical Coverage Policy** | Ovarian and Internal Iliac Vein Embolization as a Treatment of Pelvic Congestion Syndrome



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12|01|2014  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 10|20|2021

## OVERVIEW

Pelvic congestion syndrome is characterized by chronic pelvic pain that often is aggravated by standing; diagnostic criteria for this condition are not well-defined. Embolization of the ovarian and internal iliac veins has been proposed as a treatment for patients who fail medical therapy with analgesics.

## MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### Medicare Advantage Plans

Embolization of the ovarian vein and internal iliac veins is considered not covered as a treatment of pelvic congestion syndrome as the evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

### Commercial Products

Embolization of the ovarian vein and internal iliac veins is considered not medically necessary as a treatment of pelvic congestion syndrome as the evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

## COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Book, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable not medically necessary/not covered benefits/coverage.

## BACKGROUND

Pelvic congestion syndrome is characterized by chronic pelvic pain that is often aggravated by standing; diagnostic criteria for this condition are not well-defined. Embolization of the ovarian and internal iliac veins has been proposed as a treatment for patients who fail medical therapy.

For individuals who have pelvic congestion syndrome who receive ovarian and/or internal iliac vein embolization, the evidence includes case series and a systematic review. Relevant outcomes are symptoms and treatment-related morbidity. According to a systematic review of case series data, approximately 80% of patients have reported some degree of symptom relief 12 months after ovarian and/or internal iliac vein embolization. It is difficult to draw conclusions from these data because of a lack of a placebo control or comparative data from alternative interventions. Moreover, definitions of pelvic congestion syndrome vary, making it challenging to clearly define a patient population with symptoms arising from pelvic congestion. Randomized controlled trials using well-defined eligibility criteria are needed. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes, thus the treatment is considered not medically necessary.

## **CODING**

The following CPT code is not covered for Medicare Advantage Plans and not medically necessary for commercial products when filed with the diagnosis codes listed below:

**37241** Vascular embolization or occlusion, inclusive of all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural roadmapping, and imaging guidance necessary complete the intervention; venous, other than hemorrhage (e.g., congenital or acquired venous malformations, venous and capillary hemangiomas, varices, varicoceles)

ICD-10 code N94.89

## **RELATED POLICIES**

None

## **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, December 2021

Provider Update, November 2020

Provider Update, November 2019

Provider Update, February 2019

Provider Update, October 2017

## **REFERENCES**

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