Balloon Assisted Maturation of Arteriovenous Fistula

- Effective Date: 7/7/2009
- Policy Last Updated: 5/15/2012

Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.

Prospective review is not required.

**NOTE:** This policy addresses the use of balloon angioplasty to mature arteriovenous fistulas (AVFs) that are not otherwise diseased but are unusable as they do not provide adequate bloodflow for hemodialysis. Balloon angioplasty to improve blood flow through a diseased (i.e., stenotic lesions) segment of a non-maturing AVF is a covered service.

**Description:**
Arteriovenous fistula (AVF) is believed to be the best available form of hemodialysis access, yet a significant number of fistulas in patients never "mature" (become usable) to support dialysis. Balloon angioplasty maturation, also called balloon-assisted maturation (BAM) of undiseased AVF is an aggressive intervention used to promote patency of fistulas to optimize their use for hemodialysis. In this procedure, the vein undergoes staged, serial, long-segment dilations until it reaches the desired diameter. Serial BAMs are performed approximately 2 to 4 weeks apart with a goal of increasing the diameter of AVF to allow for nonrestrictive blood flow. While initial results of the intervention appear to be promising; there is a shortage of published clinical data to address its long-term affect.

**Medical Criteria:**
Not applicable.

**Policy:**
Balloon angioplasty maturation of undiseased arteriovenous fistulas is considered not medically necessary as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature to demonstrate the long-term effect of the procedure.

**Coverage:**
Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or Benefit Booklet for the applicable services that are not medically necessary.

**Coding:**
All arterial and venous access, angiography and angioplasty codes used to report such services depending upon the actual service performed. This may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 35475
- 35476
- 75962
- 75978
Also known as:
BAM

Related Topics:
None

Publication:
Provider Update, September 2009
Provider Update, September 2010
Provider Update, August 2011
Provider Update, July 2012

References:


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