Intra-Articular Hyaluronan Injections for Osteoarthritis

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

Prospective review is not required.

Description:

Viscosupplementation is a therapeutic modality for the treatment of osteoarthritis based on the physiologic importance of hyaluronan in synovial joints. Hyaluronan, also known as hyaluronate or hyaluronic acid, is a naturally occurring macromolecule that is a major component of synovial fluid. The therapeutic goal is to restore the viscoelasticity of synovial hyaluronan, thereby decreasing pain, improving mobility and restoring the natural protective functions of hyaluronan in the joint.

The hyaluronan viscosupplements Hyalgan, Synvisc or Synvisc One, Euflexxa, Supartz, and Orthovisc are classified by the FDA as "devices" used to treat the pain associated with osteoarthritis of the knee in patients who have failed to respond to conservative non-pharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics.

Intra-articular hyaluronan injections continue to be investigated for off-label uses in other joints.

Medical criteria:

Hyaluronan viscosupplementation injections of the knee are covered.

The use of intra-articular hyaluronan injections in joints other than the knee is considered not medically necessary as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature that demonstrates that the service is effective.

Policy:

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**Coverage:**

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage document or Subscriber Agreement for the applicable physician administered injected medication and surgery benefits/coverage.

**Coding:**

The following codes apply to the physician-administered medications benefit:

- **J7321** Hyaluronan or derivative, hyalgan or supartz, for intra-articular injection, per dose
- **J7323** Hyaluronan or derivative, euflexxa, for intra-articular injection, per dose
- **J7324** Hyaluronan or derivative, orthovisc, for intra-articular injection, per dose
- **J7325** Hyaluronan or derivative, Synvisc or Synvisc One, for intra-articular
- **J7326** Hyaluronan or derivative, gel-one, for intra-articular injection, per dose

The following code applies to the surgical benefit for the administration of the viscosupplementation:

**20610**

**Also Known As:**

Euflexxa  
Hyalgan  
Hyaluronan Injections  
Orthovisc  
Supartz  
Synvisc  
Viscosupplementation

**Related topics:**

Not applicable.

**Published:**

Provider Update, April 2013  
Provider Update, May 2012  
Provider Update, May 2011  
Provider Update, June 2010  
Provider Update, May 2009  
Provider Update, June 2008  
Policy Update, July 2006  
Policy Update, September 2004
References:

Policy History:
2/5/2013: Annual review of the policy.

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