Intra-articular Hyaluronan Injections for Osteoarthritis of the Knee

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 visco-elasticity 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.

The FDA approved removal of a precautionary statement from the package inserts for sodium hyaluronate (MW 500-730 kDa) and hylan G-F 20 that stated that the safety and efficacy of repeat courses have not been established. Consequently, repeat courses will be covered for qualifying candidates.

Medical criteria:
Hyaluronan viscosupplementation injections are a covered benefit.

Policy:
Hyaluronan viscosupplementation injections are a covered benefit.

Coverage:
Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate benefit booklet/subscriber agreement/Rlte Care contract 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 (replaces Q4083)
J7323 Hyaluronan or derivative, euflexxa, for intra-articular injection, per dose (replaces Q4085)
J7324 Hyaluronan or derivative, orthovisc, for intra-articular injection, per dose (replaces Q4086)
*J7325 Hyaluronan or derivative, Synvisc or Synvisc One, for intra-articular (Effective 1/1/10)

The following code applies to the surgical benefit for the administration of the viscosupplementation:
20610 Arthrocentesis, aspiration or injection; major joint or bursa

Also Known As:
Euflexxa
Hyalgan
Hyaluronan Injections
Orthovisc
Supartz
Synvisc
Synvisc One
Viscosupplementation

Related topics:
Not applicable.

Published:
Policy Update, September 2000
Policy Update, August 2000
*Effective 1/1/10 J7322 synvisc has been deleted effective 1/110 and unlisted code J3490 previously used for Synvisc One should not be used instead code J7325 should be used for both synvisc and Synvisc-One(administered by intra-articular injection once a week (one week apart) for a total of 3 injections.

References:


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at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions.

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