

Medical Coverage Policy | Removal of Not Medically Necessary Implanted Devices



EFFECTIVE DATE: 06|01|2015

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 05|19|2015

OVERVIEW

The intent of this policy is to document the criteria and prior authorization requirement for the removal of surgically implanted devices that are considered not medically necessary.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

Removal of a not medically necessary surgically implanted device is considered medically necessary for the following indications:

- complication
- infection

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

Prior authorization is required for BlueCHiP for Medicare and recommended for Commercial products and is obtained via the online tool for participating providers. See the Related Policies section.

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

Removal of a not medically necessary surgically implanted device is considered medically necessary when medical criteria are met.

Reimplantation of the device is considered not medically necessary, as the initial implantation was not medically necessary.

COVERAGE

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

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

CODING

The following codes are covered when medical criteria are met:

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

Artificial Intervertebral Disc

22864

22865

Gastric Electrical Stimulator

43648

43882

64595

Implantable Hearing Aid
69711

*The Audiant™ bone conductor is a type of electromagnetic bone conduction hearing device. While this product is no longer actively marketed, patients with existing Audiant devices may require replacement, removal, or repair.

Occipital Nerve Stimulator
64570

Commercial Only
Subcutaneous Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator
33272

RELATED POLICIES

Coverage of Complications Following a Non-covered Service
Preauthorization via Web-Based Tool for Procedures

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, July 2015

REFERENCES

Not applicable

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