

Medical Coverage Policies

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Surgical Sterilizations

EFFECTIVE DATE	01/20/2009	LAST UPDATED	01/20/2009
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Description:

Surgical sterilization is a surgical technique which leaves a male or female unable to reproduce. Sterilization is considered a permanent method of birth control.

Female methods of sterilization include tubal ligation and occlusion of the Fallopian tubes. Tubal ligation closes the Fallopian tubes by using a clip, cutting and tying, or cauterizing the tubes. Selective occlusion tubal occlusion procedure (STOP) closes the Fallopian tubes by placing a metal coil into each Fallopian tube; over the next several months tissue grows over the coil and produces a blockage that prevents passage of an egg. Essure is a brand name of an occlusion method.

The male method of sterilization is the vasectomy. Vasectomy cuts or blocks the vas deferens (spermatic duct) which prevents the passage of sperm from the testicles. This procedure may utilize stitches, heat, metal clamps (Vasclip), or a combination to occlude the vas deferens. There is also a "no scalpel" method that uses a small clamp with pointed ends to cut the skin of the scrotum.

Medical Criteria:

Not applicable; this is a reimbursement policy.

Policy:

Surgical sterilization is a covered surgical procedure unless the member's certificate indicates that sterilization is not a covered benefit. Surgical sterilization is not subject to coverage under the RI Contraceptive Mandate.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contacts. Please refer to the appropriate Member Certificate/Subscriber Agreement/Rlte Care contract for applicable benefits/coverage sections that address surgical procedures.

Coding:

The following codes are classified as surgical:

Tubal Ligation/Occlusion

58615, 58565, 58670, 58671, 58600, 58605, 58611

Vasectomy

55250

See Also:

Contraceptive Mandate Policy

Also Known As:

Permanent Contraception

Tubal Ligation
Tubal
"Tubes Tied"
Essure
Vasclip

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