Prostate Services and Procedures and Impotence Treatment

Policy Number: MMP075.13
Last Committee Approval Date: February 11, 2026
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Instructions for Use

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Related Medicare Advantage Medical Policy

- Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics), Nutritional Therapy, and Medical Supplies Grid

Related Commercial Policy

- Prostate Surgeries and Interventions

Coverage Rationale

Impotence Related Prosthetics and Devices

Refer to the Medicare Advantage Medical Policy titled Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics), Nutritional Therapy, and Medical Supplies Grid.

Temporary Prostatic Stent (e.g., Spanner® and Memokath™)

Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for temporary prostatic stent. Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) do not exist.

For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled Prostate Surgeries and Interventions.

Prostatic Urethral Lift (PUL) (e.g., UroLift® System)

Medicare does not have an NCD for prostatic urethral lift (PUL). LCDs/LCAs do not exist.

For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled Prostate Surgeries and Interventions.

Nerve Graft to Restore Erectile Function During Radical Prostatectomy

Medicare does not have an NCD for nerve graft to restore erectile function during radical prostatectomy. LCDs/LCAs do not exist.

For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled Prostate Surgeries and Interventions.

Prostate Artery Embolization (PAE) for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) Related Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS)

Medicare has a general NCD for Therapeutic Embolization (20.28). LCDs/LCAs do not exist.

For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled Prostate Surgeries and Interventions.

UnitedHealthcare uses the criteria in the Commercial Medical Policy referenced above to supplement the general Medicare criteria within the NCD for Therapeutic Embolization (20.28) regarding when prostate artery embolization (PAE) is reasonable and necessary to treat BPH related LUTS. Complications related to long-term untreated BPH can lead to the development of chronic high-pressure retention (a potentially life-threatening condition) and long-term or permanent changes to the bladder detrusor muscle. Additionally, untreated bladder outlet obstruction (BOO) can lead to urinary dysfunction, acute urinary retention (AUR), or kidney injury. UnitedHealthcare uses the criteria noted above in order to ensure consistency in reviewing the conditions to be met for coverage of PAE, as well as reviewing when such services may be reasonable and necessary. Use of this criteria to supplement the general provisions noted above provides clinical benefits by helping ensure PAE is not incorrectly denied when medically appropriate for a particular patient nor incorrectly approved when not reasonable and necessary for a patient. The potential clinical harms of using these criteria may include inappropriately denying a PAE when it is otherwise indicated, which could lead to the member obtaining another alternative treatment and/or increased urinary incontinence, worsening bladder function which may become permanent, inflamed prostate, urinary tract infections, narrowing of the urethra, bladder and kidney stones, gross hematuria, and renal insufficiency. This may impact their functional independence, activities of daily living, and overall quality of life. The benefits to using these criteria include that the criteria may decrease inappropriate denials by creating a consistent set of review criteria and will provide clinical benefits in helping ensure that the patient obtains an appropriate surgical procedure for the requested indication. Further, use of the criteria should limit the circumstances where PAE is incorrectly approved, which itself provides benefits because it prevents unnecessary development of adverse events (e.g., blood in the urine, semen, or stool; leakage of blood in the puncture site; bladder spasm; infection; urinary frequency; dysuria; and diarrhea). Additionally, patients undergoing PAE may be at risk of developing post embolization syndrome. Symptoms include pelvic pain, fever, cramping, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and discomfort. Overall, based on the information above, the clinical benefits of using these criteria are highly likely to outweigh any clinical harms, including from delayed or decreased access to services.

High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) and Cryoablation of the Prostate

Medicare does not have an NCD for high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) and cryoablation of the prostate. LCDs/LCAs do not exist.

For coverage guidelines, refer to the InterQual® CP: Procedures, High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU).

Click here to view the InterQual® criteria.

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service; however, language may be included in the listing below to indicate if a code is non-covered. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

CPT Code	Description
Temporary Prostatic Stent	
53855	Insertion of a temporary prostatic urethral stent, including urethral measurement [Refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled Prostate Surgeries and Interventions]
Prostatic Urethral Lift (PUL) (e.g., UroLift® System)	
52441	Cystourethroscopy, with insertion of permanent adjustable transprostatic implant; single implant
52442	Cystourethroscopy, with insertion of permanent adjustable transprostatic implant; each additional permanent adjustable transprostatic implant (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
Nerve Graft to Restore Erectile Function During Radical Prostatectomy	
55899	Unlisted procedure, male genital system
64999	Unlisted procedure, nervous system

CPT Code	Description
Prostate Artery Embolization (PAE) for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) Related Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS)	
37243	Vascular embolization or occlusion, inclusive of all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural road mapping, and imaging guidance necessary to complete the intervention: for tumors, organ ischemia, or infarction (when performed on prostate tissue)
High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) and Cryoablation of the Prostate	
55899	Unlisted procedure, male genital system

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HCPCS Code	Description
Prostatic Urethral Lift (PUL) (e.g., UroLift® System)	
L8699	Prosthetic implant, not otherwise specified

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Related Documents

After checking the table below and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no NCD, LCD, or LCA is found, refer to the criteria as noted in the Coverage Rationale section above.

NCD	LCD	LCA	Contractor Type	Contractor Name
Prostate Artery Embolization (PAE) for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) Related Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS)				
NCD 20.28 Therapeutic Embolization	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) With Corresponding States/Territories	
MAC Name (Abbreviation)	**States/Territories**
CGS Administrators, LLC (CGS)	KY, OH
First Coast Service Options, Inc. (First Coast)	FL, PR, VI
National Government Services, Inc. (NGS)	CT, IL, ME, MA, MN, NH, NY, RI, VT, WI
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC (Noridian)	AS, AK, AZ, CA, GU, HI, ID, MT, NV, ND, Northern Mariana Islands, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY
Novitas Solutions, Inc. (Novitas)	AR, CO, DC, DE, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NM, OK, PA, TX, VA**
Palmetto GBA (Palmetto)	AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA**, WV
Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (WPS)*	IA, IN, KS, MI, MO, NE
Notes	
*Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation: Contract Number 05901 applies only to WPS Legacy Mutual of Omaha MAC A Providers. **For the state of Virginia: Part B services for the city of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax are excluded for the Palmetto GBA jurisdiction and included within the Novitas Solutions, Inc. jurisdiction.	

References

Johns Hopkins Medicine. Prostatic artery embolization [Internet]. [2025] - [cited 2025 Oct 9]. Available from: https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/treatment-tests-and-therapies/prostatic-artery-embolization#:~:text=Patients%20may%20experience%20%E2%80%9Cpost%2DPAE,the%20puncture%20site%20or%20prostate.

McWilliams JP, Kuo MD, Rose SC, et al; Society of Interventional Radiology. Society of Interventional Radiology position statement: prostate artery embolization for treatment of benign disease of the prostate. J Vasc Interv Radiol. 2014 Sep;25(9):1349-51.

Moreira AM, de Assis AM, Carnevale FC, et al. A review of adverse events related to prostatic artery embolization for treatment of bladder outlet obstruction due to BPH. Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol. 2017 Oct;40(10):1490-1500.

Ng M, Leslie SW, Baradhi KM. Benign prostatic hyperplasia. 2024 Oct 20. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2025 Jan-. PMID: 32644346.

Sandhu JS, Cheung F. Review of Current Guidelines and Innovations in Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia Evaluation and Management. Urol Clin North Am. 2025 Nov;52(4):605-615.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes

06/01/2026	**Related Policies**
	• Removed reference link to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled *Nerve Graft to Restore Erectile Function During Radical Prostatectomy*
	Coverage Rationale
	Nerve Graft to Restore Erectile Function During Radical Prostatectomy
	• Added instruction to refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled *Prostate Surgeries and Interventions* for coverage criteria
	• Removed reference link to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy titled *Nerve Graft to Restore Erectile Function During Radical Prostatectomy*
	Prostate Artery Embolization (PAE) for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) Related Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS)
	• Revised list of:
	  ○ Adverse events [developed in circumstances where PAE is incorrectly approved]; removed hematospermia
	  ○ Symptoms of post embolization syndrome; added fever
	Supporting Information
	• Archived previous policy version MMP075.12

Instructions for Use

The Medicare Advantage Policy documents are generally used to support UnitedHealthcare coverage decisions. It is expected providers retain or have access to appropriate documentation when requested to support coverage. This document may be used as a guide to help determine applicable:

- Medical necessity coverage guidelines; including documentation requirements, and/or
- Medicare coding or billing requirements.

Medicare Advantage Policies are applicable to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans offered by UnitedHealthcare and its affiliates. This Policy is provided for informational purposes and does not constitute medical advice. It is intended to serve only as a general reference and is not intended to address every aspect of a clinical situation. Physicians and patients should not rely on this information in making health care decisions. Physicians and patients must exercise their independent clinical discretion and judgment in determining care. Treating physicians and healthcare providers are solely responsible for determining what care to provide to their patients. Members should always consult their physician before making any decisions about medical care.

Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The member specific benefit plan document identifies which services are covered, which are excluded, and which are subject to limitations. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document supersedes this policy. For more information on a specific member's benefit coverage, call the customer service number on the back of the member ID card or refer to the Administrative Guide.

Medicare Advantage Policies are developed as needed, are regularly reviewed, and updated, and are subject to change. They represent a portion of the resources used to support UnitedHealthcare coverage decision making. UnitedHealthcare may modify these Policies at any time by publishing a new version on this website. Medicare source materials used to develop these policies may include, but are not limited to, CMS statutes, regulations, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and manuals. This document is not a replacement for the Medicare source materials that outline Medicare coverage requirements. The information presented in this Policy is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication. Where there is a conflict between this document and Medicare source

materials, the Medicare source materials apply. Medicare Advantage Policies are the property of UnitedHealthcare. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this information are strictly prohibited.

UnitedHealthcare follows Medicare coverage guidelines found in statutes, regulations, NCDs, and LCDs to determine coverage. The clinical coverage criteria governing certain items or services referenced in this Medical Policy have not been fully established in applicable Medicare guidelines because there is an absence of any applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs, or LCDs setting forth coverage criteria and/or the applicable NCDs or LCDs include flexibility that explicitly allows for coverage in circumstances beyond the specific indications that are listed in an NCD or LCD. As a result, in these circumstances, UnitedHealthcare applies internal coverage criteria as referenced in this Medical Policy. The internal coverage criteria in this Medical Policy was developed through an evaluation of the current relevant clinical evidence in acceptable clinical literature and/or widely used treatment guidelines. UnitedHealthcare evaluated the evidence to determine whether it was of sufficient quality to support a finding that the items or services discussed in the policy might, under certain circumstances, be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate claims. Medicare Advantage Policies are intended to ensure that coverage decisions are made accurately. UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Policies use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or other coding guidelines. References to CPT® or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claims payment.

For members in UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans where a delegate manages utilization management and prior authorization requirements, the delegate’s requirements need to be followed.