

# Chelation Therapy (for Tennessee Only)

**Policy Number:** CS016TN.N  
**Effective Date:** August 1, 2025

[➔ Instructions for Use](#)

Table of Contents	Page
<a href="#">Application</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Coverage Rationale</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Applicable Codes</a> .....	1
<a href="#">U.S. Food and Drug Administration</a> .....	1
<a href="#">References</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Policy History/Revision Information</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Instructions for Use</a> .....	2

Related Policies
• <a href="#">Apheresis (for Tennessee Only)</a>
• <a href="#">Home Health, Skilled, and Custodial Care Services (for Tennessee Only)</a>
• <a href="#">Omnibus Codes (for Tennessee Only)</a>

## Application

This Medical Policy applies to Medicaid and CoverKids in the state of Tennessee.

## Coverage Rationale

For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [TennCare Medicaid, Chapter 1200-13.13-.10: Exclusions](#).

## 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. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements 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.

HCPCS Code	Description
J0470	Injection, dimercaprol, per 100 mg
J0600	Injection, edetate calcium disodium, up to 1,000 mg
J0895	Injection, deferoxamine mesylate, 500 mg
J3490	Unclassified drugs
J3520	Edetate disodium, per 150 mg
J8499	Prescription drug, oral, nonchemotherapeutic, NOS
M0300	IV chelation therapy (chemical endarterectomy)
S9355	Home infusion therapy, chelation therapy; administrative services, professional pharmacy services, care coordination, and all necessary supplies and equipment (drugs and nursing visits coded separately), per diem

## U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Chelation therapy, using FDA-approved chelating agents, is approved when used for metal poisoning or iron overload treatment. Use is limited to FDA-approved indications for each chelation agent, as referenced in a generally recognized

drug compendium (e.g., American Hospital Formulary Services Drug Information® or DrugDex® System). Additional information is available at: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/Cder/ob/default.cfm>. (Accessed January 30, 2025)

The FDA issued updated recommendations concerning DA and potential risks to certain high-risk individuals that may be associated with mercury-containing fillings. In 2020 the FDA released a statement saying that certain groups may be at risk for potential harmful health effects; the agency recommends that certain high-risk groups avoid getting DA when possible and appropriate. These groups that may be at a greater risk for potential harmful health effects include:

- Pregnant women and their developing fetuses
- Women who are planning to become pregnant
- Nursing women and their newborns and infants
- Children, especially those younger than six years of age
- People with pre-existing neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, or Parkinson's disease
- People with impaired kidney function; and
- People with known heightened sensitivity (allergy) to mercury or other components of DA

Additional information is available at: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-recommendations-certain-high-risk-groups-regarding-mercury-containing-dental-amalgam>. (Accessed January 30, 2025)

In 2019 the FDA warned against several companies that have made improper claims about their products' intended use as a treatment or cure for autism or autism-related symptoms. The FDA states that FDA-approved chelating agents are approved for specific uses that do not include the treatment or cure of autism, such as the treatment of lead poisoning and iron overload and are available by prescription only. Additional information is available at: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/be-aware-potentially-dangerous-products-and-therapies-claim-treat-autism>. (Accessed January 30, 2025)

## References

Rules of The Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Bureau of TennCare, Chapter 1200-13-13.-10. Retrieved from [1200-13-13.20220124.pdf \(tnsosfiles.com\)](1200-13-13.20220124.pdf). Accessed March 31, 2025.

## Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
08/01/2025	<b>Title Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Previously titled <i>Chelation Therapy for Non-Overload Conditions (for Tennessee Only)</i></li></ul> <b>Supporting Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated <i>FDA</i> section to reflect the most current information</li><li>• Archived previous policy version CS016TN.M</li></ul>

## Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.