Medical Policy
Artificial Intervertebral Disc: Lumbar Spine

Table of Contents
- Policy: Commercial
- Policy: Medicare
- Authorization Information
- Coding Information
- Description
- Policy History
- Information Pertaining to All Policies
- References

Policy Number: 592
BCBSA Reference Number: 7.01.87

Related Policies
- Artificial Intervertebral Disc: Cervical Spine, #585

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Artificial intervertebral discs of the lumbar spine are INVESTIGATIONAL.

Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members
BCBSMA does not cover lumbar artificial intervertebral disc replacement for Medicare HMO Blue and Medicare PPO Blue members in accordance with CMS NCD.

National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement (LADR) (150.10)

Prior Authorization Information
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS)
This is NOT a covered service.

Commercial Members: PPO, and Indemnity
This is NOT a covered service.

Medicare Members: HMO BlueSM
This is NOT a covered service.

Medicare Members: PPO BlueSM
This is NOT a covered service.
The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

### CPT Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22857</td>
<td>Total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, including discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression), single interspace, lumbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22862</td>
<td>Revision including replacement of total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, single interspace; lumbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0163T</td>
<td>Total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, including discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression), each additional interspace, lumbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0164T</td>
<td>Removal of total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, each additional interspace, lumbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0165T</td>
<td>Revision including replacement of total disc arthroplasty, anterior approach, each additional interspace, lumbar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Description

A common surgical approach for the treatment of degenerative disc disease is spinal fusion, however, the outcomes have been controversial over the years. Total disc replacement, or spinal arthroplasty, is proposed as an alternative to fusion in patients with persistent and disabling nonradicular low back pain. This approach is intended to maintain motion at the operative level once the damaged disc has been removed and to maintain the normal biomechanics of the adjacent vertebrae.

Potential candidates for artificial disc replacement have chronic low back pain attributed to degenerative disc disease, lack of improvement with non-operative treatment, and none of the contraindications for the procedure, which include multilevel disease, spinal stenosis or spondylolisthesis, scoliosis, previous major spine surgery, neurologic symptoms, and other minor contraindications.

Examples of artificial intervertebral discs for the lumbar spine include Charité® from DePuy, ProDisc-L from Synthes Spine, and FlexiCore from Stryker Spine. All artificial intervertebral discs in the lumbar spine are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

### Summary

Overall, the available scientific evidence remains insufficient to permit conclusions concerning the effect of this technology on net health outcomes. Evidence is insufficient to determine whether artificial lumbar discs are beneficial in the short term, and questions remain about potential long-term complications with these implants. While some randomized trials have concluded that this technology is non-inferior to fusion, there are not obvious benefits to artificial lumbar disc that would make non-inferiority trials sufficient to demonstrate clinical benefit. Therefore, artificial intervertebral discs for the lumbar spine are considered investigational.

### Policy History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies
Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

Medical Policy Terms of Use
Managed Care Guidelines
Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
Clinical Exception Process
Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

References


