Medical Policy

Implantable Sinus Stents for Postoperative Use Following Endoscopic Sinus Surgery

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Policy Number: 800
BCBSA Reference Number: 7.01.134

Related Policies
- Balloon Sinuplasty for Treatment of Chronic Sinusitis, #582

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members

The use of implantable sinus stents for postoperative treatment following endoscopic sinus surgery is INVESTIGATIONAL.

Prior Authorization Information
See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required.
Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.
No indicates that prior authorization is not required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)</th>
<th>Commercial PPO and Indemnity</th>
<th>Medicare HMO BlueSM</th>
<th>Medicare PPO BlueSM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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<td>Inpatient</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-9 Codes
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
There is no specific CPT code for this service.

HCPCS Codes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CPT codes</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>S1090</td>
<td>Mometasone furoate sinus implant, 370 micrograms.</td>
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Diagnosis Codes
Investigational for all diagnoses.

Description
Sinus stents are devices that are used postoperatively following endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS). The intent of these devices is to maintain patency of the sinus openings in the postoperative period, and/or to serve as a local drug delivery vehicle. Reducing postoperative inflammation and maintaining patency of the sinuses may be important in achieving optimal sinus drainage and may impact recovery from surgery.

ESS involves the removal of small pieces of bone, polyps, and debridement of tissue within the sinus cavities. There are a number of variations on the specific approach, depending on the disorders that are being treated and the preferences of the treating surgeon. For all procedures, there is a substantial amount of postoperative inflammation and swelling, and postoperative care is therefore a crucial component of ESS.

There are a number of postoperative treatment regimens, and the optimal regimen is not certain. Some form of sinus packing is generally performed postoperatively. Simple dressings moistened with saline can be inserted manually following surgery. Foam dressings are polysaccharide substances that form a gel when hydrated and can be used as nasal packs for a variety of indications. Middle meatal spacers are splint-like devices that prop open the sinus cavities post-ESS, but are not capable of drug delivery. There is some RCT evidence that middle meatal spacers may reduce the formation of synechiae following ESS, although the available studies have significant heterogeneity in this outcome.

Implantable sinus stents are another option for postoperative management following ESS. These implants are inserted via catheters under endoscopic guidance. These devices may stabilize the sinus openings and the turbinates, reduce edema, and/or prevent obstruction by adhesions. They also have the capability of being infused with medication that can be delivered topically over an extended period of time, and this local delivery of medications may be superior to topical application in the postoperative setting. An example of an implantable sinus stent/spacer is the Propel™ device from Intersect ENT. All implantable sinus stents/spacers are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status except when used for the medically necessary indications that are consistent with the policy statement.

Summary
Implantable sinus stents have been used post-ESS with the intent of maintaining patency of the sinuses and delivering local steroids. Two RCTs have compared the Propel™ device with steroids to the same device without steroids and reported that the steroid-eluting device reduced postoperative inflammation, reduced the need for oral steroids, and reduced the need for postoperative re-interventions. These trials primarily evaluate the efficacy of topical steroids when delivered by an implanted device, but do not evaluate the efficacy of the device itself versus standard care. The improvements reported in these trials reflect the impact of local steroids, which were withheld in the control arm, as well as the impact of the spacer device itself.

This evidence is insufficient to determine whether sinus spacers and stents improve outcomes when used postoperatively following ESS. Further RCTs are needed that compare the devices to optimal
postoperative care without the device to determine whether they can improve postoperative outcomes for patients undergoing ESS.

**Policy History**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/2013</td>
<td>New references from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/04/2013</td>
<td>New policy describing ongoing non-coverage</td>
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**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**