CONGENITAL PORT WINE STAIN HEMANGIOMA TREATMENT

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Congenital port wine stains, or nevus flammeus, are common vascular malformations that start as pink macules and tend to become darker and thicker over time. Port wine stains are generally on the face but may emerge anywhere on the body. Unlike many other birthmarks, port wine stains do not resolve spontaneously. Clinically, there can be an association of port wine stains and limb length discrepancy. Laser treatment (including pulsed dye lasers, Alexandrite, Nd: YAG lasers and intense pulsed light) of the lesion will cause gradual destruction of the hemangioma. Treatment in the macular stage may prevent the development of the hypertrophic component of the lesion.

Functional Impairment:
A state in which the normal or proper action of any body part or organ is damaged or deficient as a result of a congenital port wine stain hemangioma.
CONGENITAL PORT WINE STAIN HEMANGIOMA TREATMENT (cont.)

Criteria:

COVERAGE FOR TREATMENT TO CORRECT A CONGENITAL DEFECT OR BIRTH ABNORMALITY IS DEPENDENT UPON BENEFIT PLAN LANGUAGE AND IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE RECONSTRUCTIVE BENEFIT AND THE COSMETIC BENEFIT EXCLUSION. REFER TO MEMBER’S SPECIFIC BENEFIT PLAN BOOKLET TO VERIFY BENEFITS AND THE FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT REQUIREMENT.

- Laser treatment of congenital port wine stain hemangiomas, with 1 to 5 treatment sessions per vascular lesion being treated, is considered **medically necessary** with documentation of symptomatic and/or functional impairment. This may include, but is not limited to:
  1. Bleeding of the lesion or area
  2. Scarring or lesion hypertrophy that causes impaired function and/or symptoms
  3. Atrophy that causes impaired function and/or symptoms

- Laser treatment of congenital port wine stain hemangiomas with an associated limb length discrepancy is considered **medically necessary** for 1 to 5 treatment sessions per vascular lesion being treated with documentation of **ALL** of the following:
  1. Limb length difference is evidenced by a discrepancy in girth or length
  2. Port wine stain is present on the limb with the discrepancy in girth or length

- **Requests for greater than 5 treatment sessions will be reviewed by the medical director(s) and/or clinical advisor(s).** Provider documentation must support the medical necessity for continued treatment (e.g., bleeding, pain, thrombosis).

- Laser treatment of congenital port wine stain hemangiomas in combination with photodynamic therapy or topical angiogenesis inhibitors is considered **experimental or investigational** based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.
CONGENITAL PORT WINE STAIN HEMANGIOMA TREATMENT (cont.)

Criteria: (cont.)

- Laser treatment of congenital port wine stain hemangiomas for all other indications not previously listed or if above criteria not met is considered cosmetic and not eligible for coverage even when the procedure will improve emotional, psychological or mental condition or performance, based upon ANY of the following:
  1. Intent to enhance or improve appearance
  2. Absence of a functional physical impairment

- Laser treatment meant to prevent future complications is not eligible for coverage.

Resources:


CONGENITAL PORT WINE STAIN HEMANGIOMA TREATMENT (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)

