MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES
SECTION: SURGERY

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TRANSANAL HEMORRHOIDAL DEARTERIALIZATION

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:

Transanal hemorrhoidal dearterialization (THD), also called Doppler-guided hemorrhoidal artery ligation (DGHAL), has been investigated as a surgical technique used as an alternative to a hemorrhoidectomy to treat symptomatic hemorrhoids. The technique includes an anoscope with a Doppler probe for identification of each hemorrhoidal arterial blood supply, which is subsequently ligated. The interruption in blood flow to the hemorrhoids allows shrinkage of the tissue without surgical excision.
TRANSANAL HEMORRHOIDAL DEARTERIALIZATION (cont.)

Criteria:

- Transanal hemorrhoidal dearterialization for the treatment of hemorrhoids 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.

Resources:


TRANSANAL HEMORRHOIDAL DEARTERIALIZATION (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


FDA 510K Summary for Model 500H Doppler Guided Proctoscope:

- FDA-approved indication: The 500H is a Doppler guided proctoscope which is used to detect blood vessels supplying hemorrhoids and for performing HAL (Hemorrhoid Arterial Ligation) for Class II and Class III hemorrhoids. It is to be used by physicians in hospitals, clinics, and physicians’ offices by prescriptions or doctors’ orders.