OCCLUSION OF UTERINE ARTERIES

Description: Transcatheter uterine artery embolization (UAE) is a minimally invasive technique that involves the injection of small particles into the uterine arteries to block the blood supply to the uterus and uterine fibroids. UAE may serve as an alternative to hysterectomy. The procedure has also been used to treat other conditions, including postpartum hemorrhage and cervical ectopic pregnancy.

Laparoscopic bipolar occlusion of the uterine vessels is a technique developed to directly devascularize the uterine fibroid by interrupting the uterine arteries. This procedure has also been proposed as an alternative to UAE, as well as hysterectomy.

Definitions: Occlusion: The obstruction or closure of a blood vessel.

Devascularization: Loss of blood supply to a bodily part due to destruction or obstruction of blood vessels

Policy:

I. Transcatheter Uterine Artery Embolization
   A. Transcatheter uterine artery embolization may be considered MEDICALLY NECESSARY for treatment of EITHER of the following:
      1. Uterine fibroids; OR
      2. Postpartum uterine hemorrhage
   B. ONE repeat transcatheter embolization of uterine arteries may be considered MEDICALLY NECESSARY to treat persistent symptoms of uterine fibroids after an initial UAE.
   C. Transcatheter uterine artery embolization for the management of cervical ectopic pregnancy is considered INVESTIGATIVE due to the lack of evidence demonstrating an impact on improved health outcomes.

II. Laparoscopic Occlusion of Uterine Arteries
    Laparoscopic occlusion of the uterine arteries for treatment of uterine fibroids is considered INVESTIGATIVE due to a lack of clinical
evidence demonstrating its impact on improved health outcomes.

**Coverage:**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota medical policies apply generally to all Blue Cross and Blue Plus plans and products. Benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain services addressed in the medical policies.

Medicaid products and some self-insured plans may have additional policies and prior authorization requirements. Receipt of benefits is subject to all terms and conditions of the member’s summary plan description (SPD). As applicable, review the provisions relating to a specific coverage determination, including exclusions and limitations. Blue Cross reserves the right to revise, update and/or add to its medical policies at any time without notice.

For Medicare NCD and/or Medicare LCD, please consult CMS or National Government Services websites.

Refer to the Pre-Certification/Pre-Authorization section of the Medical Behavioral Health Policy Manual for the full list of services, procedures, prescription drugs, and medical devices that require Pre-certification/Pre-Authorization. Note that services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial of claims may result if criteria are not met.

**Coding:**

The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

**CPT:**

37243 Vascular embolization or occlusion, inclusive of all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural roadmapping, and imaging guidance necessary to complete the intervention; for tumors, organ ischemia, or infarction

**ICD-9 Procedure:**

68.24 Uterine artery embolization [UAE] with coils
68.25 Uterine artery embolization [UAE] without coils

**ICD-10 Procedure:**

04LE3DT Occlusion of Right Uterine Artery with Intraluminal Device, Percutaneous Approach
04LF3DU Occlusion of Left Uterine Artery with Intraluminal Device, Percutaneous Approach
04LE3ZT Occlusion of Right Uterine Artery, Percutaneous Approach
04LF3ZU Occlusion of Left Uterine Artery, Percutaneous Approach
Deleted Code: 37210

Policy History:

Developed June 10, 1998

Most recent history:
Reviewed January 12, 2011
Reviewed January 11, 2012
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Reviewed January 8, 2014

Cross Reference:

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