Geisinger

Geisinger Health Plan Policies and Procedure Manual

Policy: MP291

Section: Medical Benefit Policy

Subject: Percutaneous Ultrasonic or Radiofrequency Coblation Tenotomy

Applicable Lines of Business

Commercial	**X**	**CHIP**	**X**
Medicare	**X**	**ACA**	**X**
Medicaid	**X**		

I. Policy: Percutaneous Ultrasonic or Radiofrequency Coblation Tenotomy

II. Purpose/Objective:

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Percutaneous Ultrasonic or Radiofrequency Coblation Tenotomy

III. Responsibility:

A. Medical Directors

B. Medical Management Department

IV. Required Definitions

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

V. Additional Definitions

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community;
d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

Medicaid Business Segment

Medically Necessary — A service, item, procedure, or level of care that is necessary for the proper treatment or management of an illness, injury, or disability is one that:

- Will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for Members of the same age

DESCRIPTION:
Percutaneous Ultrasonic or Radiofrequency Coblation Tenotomy is a minimally invasive surgical aspirator intended for ablating and removing diseased or pathologic musculoskeletal tissue.

EXCLUSIONS:
The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for Percutaneous Ultrasonic or Radiofrequency Coblation Tenotomy (e.g., TX1™ Tissue Removal System, TOPAZ®EZ Microdebrider Coblation Wand) as a treatment for musculoskeletal conditions, including but not limited to the following conditions:

- Plantar fasciitis
- Achilles, Patellar, Wrist, shoulder or rotator cuff tendinopathy
- Lateral epicondylitis

because it is considered **unproven.** The Geisinger Technology Assessment Committee evaluated this technology and concluded that there is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of this test on health outcomes when compared to established tests or technologies.

Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in **MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.**

Medicaid Business Segment:
Any requests for services that do not meet criteria set in the PARP, may be evaluated on a case by case basis.

CODING ASSOCIATED WITH: Percutaneous Ultrasonic or Radiofrequency Coblation Tenotomy
The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services**.** Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at www.cms.gov or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.

20999 Unlisted procedure, musculoskeletal system, general [when specified as percutaneous radiofrequency or ultrasonic ablation of soft tissue]

The following code will be denied as unproven if found to be performed using the RF or US devices

24357 Tenotomy, elbow, lateral or medial (eg, epicondylitis, tennis elbow, golfer's elbow), percutaneous
24358 debridement, soft tissue and/or bone
24359 Tenotomy, elbow, lateral or medial (e.g., epicondylitis, tennis elbow, golfer's elbow); debridement, soft tissue and/or bone, open with tendon repair or reattachment
25290 Tenotomy, open, flexor or extensor tendon, forearm and/or wrist, single, each tendon
23405-23406 Tenotomy; shoulder
27605-27606 Tenotomy, percutaneous, Achilles tendon

LINE OF BUSINESS:
Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD's and NCD's will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.

REFERENCES:

Geisinger Technology Assessment Committee. TX1 Tissue Removal System (Tenex Health) for Ablating and Removing Tissue. Jan 8, 2014.

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Chimenti RL, Stover DW, Fick BS, Hall MM. Percutaneous ultrasonic tenotomy reduces insertional achilles tendinopathy pain with high patient satisfaction and a low complication rate. 2018 October 2.
Al-Ani Z, Jacobsen EW, Kartus JT et al. Radiofrequency microtenotomy: a promising method for treatment of rotator cuff tendinopathy. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc, 2019 Sep 2.

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This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

Devised: 7/2014

Revised: 7/22 (revise title, clarified exclusion), 7/24 (refine exclusion)

Reviewed: 8/2015, 8/16, 7/17, 6/18, 7/19, 7/20, 7/21, 7/23

CMS UM Oversight Committee Approval: 12/23, 7/24