ELBOW REPLACEMENT SURGERY (ARTHROPLASTY)

Policy Number: 2019T0551M  Effective Date: April 1, 2019

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Elbow replacement surgery is proven and medically necessary in certain circumstances. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, see MCG™ Care Guidelines, 23rd edition, 2019, Elbow Arthroplasty, S-420 (ISC).

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

CPT Codes*   | Required Clinical Information
Elbow Replacement Surgery (Arthroplasty) |
-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
24360        | Medical office notes documenting all of the following:
24361        | • Complete report(s) of diagnostic imaging (MRI, CT Scan, X-rays and Bone Scan)
24362        | • Condition requiring procedure
24363        | • Co-morbid medical conditions (Rheumatoid Arthritis, Osteoarthritis, Degenerative Joint Disease, Post-traumatic Arthritis, Severe Fractures)
24370        | • Pertinent physical examination of the relevant joint
24371        | • Physician's treatment plan including pre-op discussion
24360        | • Severity of pain and details of functional disability(ies) interfering with activities of daily living (preparing meals, dressing, driving, walking)
24361        | • Therapies tried and failed of the following including dates:
24362        | o Orthotics
24370        | o Medications/injections
24371        | o Physical therapy
24363        | o Surgery
24360        | o Other pain management procedures
24361        | • For arthroplasty due to rheumatoid arthritis, include:
24362        | o Member's symptoms, pain, location, and severity including functional impairment that is interfering with activities of daily living (preparing meals, walking, getting dressed, driving)
24370        | • For revision surgery, include complication and complete (staged) surgical plan

*For code descriptions, see the Applicable Codes section.

APPLICABLE CODES

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines may apply.
### U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

Elbow replacement surgery is a procedure and, therefore, not regulated by the FDA. However, devices and instruments used during the surgery may require FDA approval. See the following website for additional information (product codes JDC and KWI): [http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm).

(Accessed December 14, 2018)

FDA-approved total or partial elbow replacement surgery devices are generally approved for the same indications, including any or all of the following:

- Non-inflammatory degenerative joint disease, such as osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Post-traumatic arthritis, tumor or bone loss causing elbow instability
- Complex fracture(s) of elbow components
- Ankylosis
- Revision of failed elbow replacement surgery
- Correction of functional deformity

### CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for elbow replacement surgery (arthroplasty). Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) do not exist at this time.

(Accessed January 3, 2019)

### POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

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| 06/01/2019 | **Template Update**  
|            | • Added Documentation Requirements section |
| 04/01/2019 | • Reorganized policy template:  
|            | o Simplified and relocated Instructions for Use  
|            | o Removed Benefit Considerations section  
|            | • Revised coverage rationale:  
|            | o Replaced reference to “MCG™ Care Guidelines, 22nd edition, 2018” with  
|            | “MCG™ Care Guidelines, 23rd edition, 2019”; refer to 23rd edition for complete details on applicable updates to the MCG™ Care Guidelines  
|            | • Archived previous policy version 2018T0551L |

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

This Medical Policy may also be applied to Medicare Advantage plans in certain instances. In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage

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**CPT Code** | **Description**
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24360 | Arthroplasty, elbow; with membrane (e.g., fascial)
24361 | Arthroplasty, elbow; with distal humeral prosthetic replacement
24362 | Arthroplasty, elbow; with implant and fascia lata ligament reconstruction
24363 | Arthroplasty, elbow; with distal humerus and proximal ulnar prosthetic replacement (e.g., total elbow)
24370 | Revision of total elbow arthroplasty, including allograft when performed; humeral or ulnar component
24371 | Revision of total elbow arthroplasty, including allograft when performed; humeral and ulnar component

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guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence (Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5).

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.