# Coverage Summary

## Abortion

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<tr>
<td>Approved by:</td>
<td>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee</td>
<td>Last Review Date: 10/15/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline:</td>
<td>Abortion (NCD 140.1)</td>
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The benefit information in this Coverage Summary is based on existing national coverage policy, however, Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable.

There are instances where this document may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG). In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage 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).

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## I. COVERAGE

**Coverage Statement:** Abortion is covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met.

**Guidelines/Notes:**

1. Abortion is covered only under the following circumstances:
   a. If the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or
   b. In the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, which would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

   *See the [NCD for Abortion (140.1)](https://www.example.com/NCD1401) (Accessed October 3, 2019)*

2. Health care associated if the pregnancy terminates, whether spontaneously or for therapeutic reasons (i.e., where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were brought to term) is also covered.

   *See the [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, §20.1 - Physician Expense, Surgery](https://www.example.com/MBPM15201)*
Childbirth, and Treatment for Infertility.

Also see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 1, §80 - Health Care Associated with Pregnancy and §90 – Termination of Pregnancy.

(Accessed October 3, 2019)

II. DEFINITIONS

III. REFERENCES

IV. REVISION HISTORY

10/15/2019  •  Routine review; no change to coverage guidelines