# Coverage Summary

## Cochleostomy with Neurovascular Transplant for Meniere's Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Number:</th>
<th>C-004</th>
<th><strong>Products:</strong> UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans</th>
<th><strong>Original Approval Date:</strong> 06/25/2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved by:</td>
<td>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee</td>
<td><strong>Last Review Date:</strong> 08/21/2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline:** [Cochleostomy with Neurovascular Transplant for Meniere's (NCD 50.7)](Accessed July 26, 2018)

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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 are 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](Accessed July 26, 2018)).

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## I. COVERAGE

**Coverage Statement:** Cochleostomy with neurovascular transplant for the treatment of Ménière’s disease is not a covered benefit.

**Guidelines/Notes:**

Meniere's disease (or syndrome) is a common cause of paroxysmal vertigo. Meniere's syndrome is usually treated medically. When medical treatment fails, surgical treatment may be required.

While there are two recognized surgical procedures used in treating Meniere's disease (decompression of the endolymphatic hydrops and labyrinthectomy), there is no scientific evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of cochleostomy with neurovascular transplant in treatment of Meniere's syndrome. Accordingly, Medicare does not cover cochleostomy with neurovascular transplant for treatment of Meniere's disease.

See the [NCD for Cochleostomy with Neurovascular Transplant for Meniere's Disease (50.7)](Accessed July 26, 2018).

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*UHC MA Coverage Summary: Cochleostomy with Neurovascular Transplant for Meniere's Disease
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II. DEFINITIONS

III. REFERENCES

See above

IV. REVISION HISTORY

04/01/2019  Updated policy introduction; added language to clarify:
- There are instances where [the Coverage Summary] 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)

08/21/2018  Annual review with the following update:
Deleted definition of Meniere's disease (or syndrome) from section and added it to
“Guideline/Notes” section. Also removed language “A disease of the inner ear” as it is
not referenced in the NCD.

08/15/2017  Annual review; no updates.

08/16/2016  Annual review; no updates.

09/15/2015  Annual review; no updates.

10/21/2014  Annual review; definition of Ménière’s Disease (or Syndrome) was updated to include
the reference link to the NCD for Cochleostomy with Neurovascular Transplant for
Meniere's Disease (50.7).

10/24/2013  Annual review; no updates.

10/31/2012  Annual review; no updates.

10/13/2011  Annual review; no updates.