

Prolotherapy, Joint Sclerotherapy, and Ligamentous Injections with Sclerosing Agents (NCD 150.7)

Guideline Number: MPG260.06
Approval Date: September 9, 2020

[➔ Terms and Conditions](#)

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<p>Related Medicare Advantage Coverage Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain Management and Pain Rehabilitation
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Policy Summary

[➔ See Purpose](#)

Overview

Prolotherapy (also referred to as intra-articular regeneration injection therapy, proliferant therapy or proliferation therapy) has been claimed to promote healing by injecting a solution into the joints or ligaments that stimulates an inflammatory reaction. These solutions may include dextrose, glucose, glycerine, dextrose-glycerine-phenol solution, zinc sulfate, fibrin glue, platelet-rich plasma or morrhuate sodium.

Prolotherapy is intended to increase joint stability by inducing an inflammatory process that mimics the natural healing process. The goal of prolotherapy is to promote joint and ligamentous stability and thereby reduce pain associated with abnormal joint motion.

Guidelines

The medical effectiveness of the above therapies has not been verified by scientifically controlled studies. Accordingly, reimbursement for these modalities should be denied on the ground that they are not reasonable and necessary as required by §1862(a)(1) of the Act.

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 guideline 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 Guidelines may apply.

HCPCS Code	Description
M0076	Prolotherapy (Non-covered)

Definitions

Prolotherapy: Also known as "proliferation therapy," "regenerative injection therapy," or "proliferative injection therapy." It involves injecting an otherwise non-pharmacological and non-active irritant solution into the body, generally in the region of tendons or ligaments for the purpose of strengthening weakened connective tissue and alleviating musculoskeletal pain.

References

CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)

[NCD 150.7 Prolotherapy, Joint Sclerotherapy, and Ligamentous Injections with Sclerosing Agents Decision Memo for Prolotherapy for Chronic Low Back Pain \(CAG-00045N\)](#)

CMS Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and Articles

LCD	Article	Contractor	Medicare Part A	Medicare Part B
L35010 Trigger Point Injections	A57751 Billing and Coding: Trigger Point Injections	Novitas	AR, CO, DC, DE, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NM, OK, PA, TX	AR, CO, DC, DE, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NM, OK, PA, TX

UnitedHealthcare Commercial Policy

[Prolotherapy and Platelet Rich Plasma Therapies](#)

Guideline History/Revision Information

Revisions to this summary document do not in any way modify the requirement that services be provided and documented in accordance with the Medicare guidelines in effect on the date of service in question.

Date	Summary of Changes
04/01/2021	Template Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reformatted policy; transferred content to new template
09/09/2020	Supporting Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current informationArchived previous policy version MPG260.05

Purpose

The Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline documents are generally used to support UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage claims processing activities and facilitate providers' submission of accurate claims for the specified services. The document can be used as a guide to help determine applicable:

- Medicare coding or billing requirements, and/or
- Medical necessity coverage guidelines; including documentation requirements.

UnitedHealthcare follows Medicare guidelines such as NCDs, LCDs, LCAs, and other Medicare manuals for the purposes of determining coverage. It is expected providers retain or have access to appropriate documentation when requested to support coverage. Please utilize the links in the [References](#) section below to view the Medicare source materials used to develop this resource document. This document is not a replacement for the Medicare source materials that outline Medicare coverage requirements. Where there is a conflict between this document and Medicare source materials, the Medicare source materials will apply.

Terms and Conditions

The Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are applicable to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans offered by UnitedHealthcare and its affiliates.

These Policy Guidelines are provided for informational purposes, and do not constitute medical advice. Treating physicians and healthcare providers are solely responsible for determining what care to provide to their patients. Members should always consult their physician before making any decisions about medical care.

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 member specific benefit plan document identifies which services are covered, which are excluded, and which are subject to limitations. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document supersedes the Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines.

Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are developed as needed, are regularly reviewed and updated, and are subject to change. They represent a portion of the resources used to support UnitedHealthcare coverage decision making. UnitedHealthcare may modify these Policy Guidelines at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this website. Medicare source materials used to develop these guidelines include, but are not limited to, CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Medicare Managed Care Manual, etc. The information presented in the Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication and is provided on an "AS IS" basis. Where there is a conflict between this document and Medicare source materials, the Medicare source materials will apply.

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are intended to ensure that coverage decisions are made accurately based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or other coding guidelines. References to CPT® or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claims payment.

Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are the property of UnitedHealthcare. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this information are strictly prohibited.

*For more information on a specific member's benefit coverage, please call the customer service number on the back of the member ID card or refer to the [Administrative Guide](#).