

Endometrial Ablation

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Medicare Link(s) Revised: N/A

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Medicare Advantage Medical Policy manual is not intended to override the member Evidence of Coverage (EOC), which defines the insured's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate how providers are to practice medicine. Physicians and other health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care for the individual member.

The Medicare Advantage Medical Policies are designed to provide guidance regarding the decision-making process for the coverage or non-coverage of services or procedures in accordance with the member EOC and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policies, when available. In the event of a conflict, applicable CMS policy or EOC language will take precedence over the Medicare Advantage Medical Policy. In the absence of CMS guidance for a requested service or procedure, the health plan may apply their Medical Policy Manual or MCG™ criteria, both of which are developed with an objective, evidence-based process using scientific evidence, current generally accepted standards of medical practice, and authoritative clinical practice guidelines.

Medicare and EOCs exclude from coverage, among other things, services or procedures considered to be investigational, cosmetic, or not medically necessary, and in some cases, providers may bill members for these non-covered services or procedures. Providers are encouraged to inform members in advance when they may be financially responsible for the cost of non-covered or excluded services.

DESCRIPTION

Ablation (destruction) of the endometrium can be used as a treatment of abnormal uterine bleeding in premenopausal women who have failed standard medical therapy. Standard medical management generally includes a trial of non-hormonal therapy, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication and oral tranexamic acid. It may also include a trial of hormonal treatment to thin the endometrium. While endometrial ablation is considered less invasive than hysterectomy, because there are concerns regarding maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality with pregnancy after endometrial ablation, it is not recommended for women who wish to preserve fertility.

Techniques for endometrial ablation can be divided into two categories: hysteroscopic (e.g., Nd-YAG laser, electrosurgical rollerball) and non-hysteroscopic (e.g., cryosurgical, radiofrequency ablation).

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE POLICY CRITERIA

CMS Coverage Manuals*	None
National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)*	None
Noridian Healthcare Solutions (Noridian) Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and Articles (LCAs)*	None
Medical Policy Manual	<p>Medicare coverage guidance is not available for endometrial ablation. Therefore, the health plan's medical policy is applicable.</p> <p>Endometrial Ablation, Surgery, Policy No. 01 (see "NOTE" below)</p>
<p>NOTE: According to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, §1862(a)(1)(A), only medically reasonable and necessary services are covered by Medicare. In the absence of a NCD, LCD, or other coverage guideline, CMS guidelines allow a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to make coverage determinations, applying an objective, evidence-based process, based on authoritative evidence. (Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5). The Medicare Advantage Medical Policy - Medicine Policy No. M-149 - provides further details regarding the plan's evidence-assessment process (see Cross References).</p>	

POLICY GUIDELINES

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The information below **must** be submitted for review to determine whether policy criteria are met. If any of these items are not submitted, it could impact our review and decision outcome:

- Endometrial histopathological report
- Hysteroscopy, sonohysterography, or pelvic ultrasound report
- Clinical notes which specify hormonal therapy if applicable

REGULATORY STATUS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) indicated that endometrial devices are for use in premenopausal women with menorrhagia due to benign causes for whom childbearing is complete. FDA-approved devices for endometrial ablation include, but may not be limited to, laser therapy, electrical wire loop, rollerball using electric current, and thermal ablation using a liquid-filled balloon, microwave, electrode array, or a cryosurgical device. Examples of devices for endometrial ablation are:

- The Genesys HTA™ system (Boston Scientific): This system involves the instillation and circulation of heated saline into the uterus using hysteroscopic guidance and includes features such as a smaller console and simplified set-up requirements, was approved by the FDA in May 2010.

- The Microwave Endometrial Ablation (MEA) system (Microsulis Medical): This delivers fixed-frequency microwave energy and may be performed in a physician’s office but does require use of the hysteroscope.
- The ThermoChoice® device (J&J Ethicon Gynecare): This device ablates endometrial tissue by thermal energy heating of sterile injectable fluid within a silicone balloon. Endometrial ablation will only work when there is direct contact between the endometrial wall and the fluid-filled balloon. Therefore, patients with uteri of abnormal shape, resulting from tumors such as myomas or polyps, or large size, due to fibroids, are generally not considered candidates for this procedure.
- The NovaSure™ impedance-controlled endometrial ablation system (Cytoc Corp): The system delivers RF energy to the endometrial surface. The device consists of an electrode array on a stretchable porous fabric that conforms to the endometrial surface.
- Her Option™ Uterine Cryoablation Therapy™ system (American Medical Systems): The system consists of, in part, a cryoprobe that is inserted through the cervix into the endometrial cavity. When cooled, an ice ball forms around the probe, which permanently destroys the endometrial tissue. Cryoablation is typically monitored by abdominal ultrasound.

CROSS REFERENCES

[Investigational \(Experimental\) Services and New and Emerging Medical Technologies and Procedures](#), Medicine, Policy No. M-149

[Gender Affirming Interventions for Gender Dysphoria](#), Medicine, Policy No. M-153

REFERENCES

None

CODING

Codes	Number	Description
CPT	58353	Endometrial ablation, without hysteroscopic guidance
	58356	Endometrial cryoablation with ultrasonic guidance, including endometrial curettage, when performed
	58563	Hysteroscopy, surgical, with endometrial ablation (e.g., endometrial resection, electrosurgical ablation, thermoablation)

HCPCS None

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Medicare Advantage medical policies use the most current Medicare references available at the time the policy was developed. Links to Medicare references will take viewers to external websites outside of the health plan's web control as these sites are not maintained by the health plan.