

MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	INTRAVASCULAR ULTRASOUND (IVUS)
Policy Number	6.01.09
Category	Technology Assessment
Effective Date	10/18/01
Revised Date	06/20/02
Archived Date	05/21/03
Edited Date	11/10/05, 11/16/06, 12/20/07, 12/18/08, 11/19/09, 06/17/10, 06/16/11, 07/19/12, 07/18/13, 07/17/14, 07/16/15, 07/21/16, 7/20/17, 07/19/18, 7/18/19
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply. • If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan product) or a Medicaid product covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria and review of the peer-reviewed literature intravascular ultrasound has been medically proven to be effective and therefore **medically appropriate** for any of the following indications:
 - A. Determination of the appropriate type of revascularization procedure to be done;
 - B. Assessment of abdominal aortic aneurysm;
 - C. Assessment of coronary artery stent deployment and expansion;
 - D. Evaluation of subsequent stenosis after stent replacement;
 - E. Evaluation of the coronary vessels for evidence of post-transplant vasculopathy; or
 - F. Evaluation of vascular stents and intravascular devices.
- II. Based upon our criteria and review of the peer-reviewed literature, the use of intravascular ultrasound for all other indications has not been proven to be medically effective and are therefore considered **investigational**.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #11.01.03 regarding Experimental and Investigational Services.

POLICY GUIDELINES

The Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP/FEP) requires that procedures, devices or laboratory tests approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered investigational and thus these procedures, devices or laboratory tests may be assessed only on the basis of their medical necessity.

DESCRIPTION

Transcatheter intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) imaging is a catheter-based technique which provides real-time, high-resolution tomographic images of the lumen and arterial wall of vascular structure. The technique involves a miniaturized ultrasound transducer, mounted on the tip of a catheter, which is inserted directly into an artery or vein to produce either two-dimensional tomographic images or three-dimensional computer-assisted reconstruction of planar IVUS images.

Intravascular ultrasound is intended to image the internal lining of a vessel prior to, during, and following angioplasty, arterectomy, placement of a stent, post cardiac transplant vasculopathy, assessment of and/or placement of endovascular graft for abdominal aneurysm, and prior, during and after vascular procedures/surgeries.

RATIONALE

IVUS is a non-invasive evidence-based procedure that can provide high quality images that can help determine if surgery is necessary, the type of surgery best suited to the individual patient, and **whether** further medical treatment in the form of lifestyle changes and medication might benefit the patient.

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- Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.
- **CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.**
- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

CPT Codes

Code	Description
37252	Intravascular ultrasound (noncoronary vessel) during diagnostic evaluation and/or therapeutic intervention, including radiological supervision and interpretation; initial noncoronary vessel (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
37253	Intravascular ultrasound (noncoronary vessel) during diagnostic evaluation and/or therapeutic intervention, including radiological supervision and interpretation; each additional noncoronary vessel (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
92978	Endoluminal imaging of coronary vessel or graft using intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) or optical coherence tomography (OCT) during diagnostic evaluation and/or therapeutic intervention including imaging supervision, interpretation and report; initial vessel (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
92979	each additional vessel (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

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Code	Description
No specific code	

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
I25.10-I25.119	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery (code range)
I25.700-I25.812	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s) and coronary artery of transplanted heart with angina pectoris or other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease (code range)
I71.4	Abdominal aortic aneurysm, without rupture
Z48.21	Encounter for aftercare following heart transplant
Z48.280	Encounter for aftercare following heart-lung transplant
Z94.1	Heart transplant status
Z94.3	Heart and lungs transplant status

REFERENCES

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*Key Article

KEY WORDS

Intravascular ultrasound, IVUS

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There is currently no National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Intravascular Ultrasound.