Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma (L34076)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

### Contractor Information

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<th>CONTRACTOR NAME</th>
<th>CONTRACT TYPE</th>
<th>CONTRACT NUMBER</th>
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<th>STATE(S)</th>
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LCD Information

Document Information

**LCD ID**
L34076

**LCD Title**
Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma

**Proposed LCD in Comment Period**
N/A

**Source Proposed LCD**
DL34076

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**Original Effective Date**
For services performed on or after 10/01/2015

**Revision Effective Date**
For services performed on or after 10/01/2019

**Revision Ending Date**
N/A

**Retirement Date**
N/A

**Notice Period Start Date**
04/06/2017

**Notice Period End Date**
05/21/2017
CMS National Coverage Policy

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 1862(a)(1)(A) allows coverage and payment for only those services that are considered to be medically reasonable and necessary.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, Section 1833(e). This section prohibits Medicare payment for any claim which lacks the necessary information to process the claim.


Coverage Guidance

Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

This policy addresses the injection of chemical substances, such as local anesthetics, steroids, sclerosing agents and/or neurolytic agents into ganglion cysts, tendon sheaths, tendon origins/insertions, ligaments or near nerves of the feet (e.g., Morton's neuroma) to affect therapy for a pathological condition.

Note: the term "Morton's neuroma" is used in this policy generically to refer to a swollen inflamed nerve in the ball of the foot, including the more specific conditions of Morton's neuroma (lesion within the third intermetatarsal space), Heuter's neuroma (first intermetatarsal space), Hauser's neuroma (second intermetatarsal space) and Iselin's neuroma (fourth intermetatarsal space). This policy applies to each.

Injection of a carpal tunnel or tarsal tunnel is indicated for the patient with a mild case of these syndromes, with or without a trial of other conservative measures, such as oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or orthoses.

Injection into tendon sheaths, ligaments, tendon origins or insertions, ganglion cysts, neuromas or other areas described by this policy may be indicated to relieve pain or dysfunction resulting from inflammation or other pathological changes. Proper use of this modality with local anesthetics and/or steroids should be short-term, as part of an overall management plan including diagnostic evaluation, in order to clearly identify and properly treat the primary cause. In some circumstances after diagnosis has been confirmed, injection of a sclerosing or neurolytic agent may be appropriate for longer-term management.

The signs or symptoms that justify these treatments should be resolved or reevaluated after one to three injections (see reference 2 below, under "Sources of Information and Basis for Decision"). Injections beyond three to the same tendon origin/insertion, tendon sheath, ganglion, neuroma, ligament or local area in a six month period must be justified by the clinical record indicating a logical reason for failure of the prior therapy and why further treatment can reasonably be expected to succeed. A recurrence may justify a second course of therapy.

Medical necessity for injections of more than two sites at one session or for frequent or repeated injections is questionable. Such injections are likely to result in a request for medical records which must evidence careful justification of necessity.
"Dry needling" of ganglion cysts, ligaments, neuromas, tendon sheaths and their origins/insertions are non-covered procedures.

Compliance with the provisions in this policy is subject to monitoring by post payment data analysis and subsequent medical review.

**Summary of Evidence**

N/A

**Analysis of Evidence**  
(Rationale for Determination)

N/A

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**General Information**

**Associated Information**

N/A

**Sources of Information**

1. Scientific American Medical; Physiatry Section, PRMA; Rheumatology Section, PRMA.


**Bibliography**

N/A

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**Revision History Information**

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<th>REASON(S) FOR CHANGE</th>
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<td>10/01/2019</td>
<td>R4</td>
<td>As required by CR 10901, all billing and coding information has been moved to the</td>
<td>• Revisions Due To Code Removal</td>
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<td>05/22/2017</td>
<td>R3</td>
<td>This LCD is the result of DL34076 being released to final.</td>
<td>• Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction</td>
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<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>R2</td>
<td>LCD is revised to add/delete the following diagnosis codes effective 10/1/16: Added codes: G56.03, G57.53, G5763, S0341XA, S0341XD, S0341XS, S0342XA, S0342XD, S0342XS, S0343XA, S0343XD and S0343XS. Deleted codes: S03.4XXA, S03.4XXD and S03.4XXS. Part A contract numbers are added to this LCD.</td>
<td>• Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction • Revisions Due To ICD-10-CM Code Changes</td>
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<td>10/01/2015</td>
<td>R1</td>
<td>This LCD is revised to remove the paragraph, &quot;When requesting an individual consideration through the written redetermination (formerly appeal) process, providers must include all relevant medical records and literature that supports the request. “ from the Associated Information field.</td>
<td>• Other (Removed the paragraph, &quot;When requesting an individual consideration through the written redetermination (formerly appeal) process, providers must include all relevant medical records and literature that supports the request. “)</td>
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**Associated Documents**

**Attachments**

N/A

**Related Local Coverage Documents**

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A57201 - Billing and Coding: Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma
A55490 - Response to Comments: Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma
LCD(s)
DL34076
- (MCD Archive Site)

Related National Coverage Documents
N/A

Public Version(s)
Updated on 09/18/2019 with effective dates 10/01/2019 - N/A
Updated on 04/01/2017 with effective dates 05/22/2017 - 09/30/2019
Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the MCD Archive Site to retrieve them.

Keywords

- 20526
- 20527
- 20550
- 20551
- 20612
- 26341
- 64455
- injection
- tendon
- ligament
- ganglion cyst
- tunnel morton's
- neuroma
- carpal
- tarsal