Local Coverage Determination (LCD):
Total Hip Arthroplasty (L36573)

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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LCD Information

Document Information

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<td>L36573</td>
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Total Hip Arthroplasty

Proposed LCD in Comment Period
N/A

Source Proposed LCD
DL36573

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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 reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.
Coverage Guidance

Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

Joint replacement surgery has been performed on millions of people over the past several decades and has proved to be an important medical advancement in the field of orthopedic surgery. The hip and knee are the two most commonly replaced joints. The hip is a large weight bearing joint made up of two components: a ball (femoral head) and socket (acetabulum). These components are covered with articular cartilage and are bathed in synovial fluid produced by a synovial membrane.

Arthritis causes a severe limitation in the activities of daily living (ADLs), including difficulty with walking, squatting, and climbing stairs. Pain is typically most severe with activity and patients often have difficulty getting mobilized when seated for a long time.

Total hip replacement surgery is most often performed due to severe pain caused by osteoarthritis (degenerative arthritis) of the hip joint. Rheumatoid arthritis, traumatic arthritis, malignancy involving the hip joint and osteonecrosis of the femoral head are also possible causes for hip replacement surgery. The use of THR in patients with malignancy must be weighed against considerations of life expectancy and possible alternative procedures to relieve pain. The pain from the damaged joint usually limits activities of daily living, such as walking, bathing and cooking. The pain can also cause disruption of sleep due to the inability to lie on the hip while in bed. Pain relief not achieved by taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications and failure to achieve symptom improvement with other conservative therapies such as physical therapy, activity modification and (in some patients) assistive device use are reasons for proceeding with a total hip replacement. The goal of total hip replacement surgery is to relieve pain and improve or increase patient function. Occasionally, there may be a need to perform a reoperation on a previous total hip. This is often referred to as a revision total hip. Circumstances that lead to the need for a revision total hip are continued disabling pain, continued decline in function which can be attributed to failure of the primary joint replacement. Failure can be due to infection involving the joint, substantial bone loss in the structures supporting the prosthesis, fracture, aseptic loosening of the components and wear of the prosthetic components.

Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA)

Noridian will consider total hip replacement surgery medically necessary in the following circumstances:

Advanced joint disease demonstrated by:

- Radiographic supported evidence or when conventional radiography is not adequate, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and/or computed tomography (CT) (in situations when MRI is non-diagnostic or not able to be performed) supported evidence (subchondral cysts, subchondral sclerosis, periarticular osteophytes, joint subluxation, severe joint space narrowing, avascular necrosis); AND
- Pain that cannot be adequately controlled despite optimal conservative treatment or functional disability from injury due to trauma or arthritis of the joint; AND
- If appropriate, history of unsuccessful conservative therapy (non-surgical medical management) that is clearly
addressed in the pre-procedure medical record. (If conservative therapy is not appropriate, the medical record must clearly document the rationale for why such approach is not reasonable). Non-surgical medical management is usually but not always implemented prior to scheduling total joint surgery. Non-surgical treatment as clinically appropriate for the patient’s current episode of care typically includes one or more of the following:

- anti-inflammatory medications or analgesics, or
- flexibility and muscle strengthening exercises, or
  - supervised physical therapy [Activities of daily living (ADLs) diminished despite completing a plan of care], or
  - assistive device use, or
  - weight reduction as appropriate, or
  - therapeutic injections into the hip as appropriate.

In some circumstances, for example, if the patient has bone on bone articulation, severe deformity, pain or significant disabling interference with activities of daily living, the surgeon may determine that nonsurgical medical management would be ineffective or counterproductive and that the best treatment option, after explaining the risks, is surgical. If medical management is deemed appropriate, the medical record should indicate the rationale for and the circumstances under which this is the case.

- Malignancy of the joint involving the bones or soft tissues of the pelvis or proximal femur; or
- Avascular necrosis (osteonecrosis of femoral head); or
- Fracture of the femoral neck; or
- Acetabular fracture; or
- Non-union or failure of previous hip fracture surgery; or
  - Mal-union of acetabular or proximal femur fracture

*See the associated Billing and Coding article (linked below) for Documentation Requirements.

**Indications for Replacement/Revision of Total Hip Arthroplasty**

- Loosening of one or both components; or
- Fracture or mechanical failure of the implant; or
• Recurrent or irreducible dislocation; or

• Infection; or

• Treatment of a displaced periprosthetic fracture; or

• Clinically significant leg length inequality not amenable to conservative management; or

• Progressive or substantial bone loss; or

• Bearing surface wear leading to symptomatic synovitis or local bone or soft tissue reaction; or

• Clinically significant audible noise; or

• Adverse local tissue reaction

**Limitations**

Noridian will not consider a total hip replacement medically necessary when the following contraindications are present:

• Active infection of the hip joint or active systemic bacteremia

• Active urinary tract or dental infection

• Active skin infection (exception recurrent cutaneous staph infections) or open wound within the planned surgical site of the hip.

• Rapidly progressive neurological disease except in the clinical situation of a concomitant displaced femoral neck fracture

The following conditions are relative contraindications to total hip replacement and if such surgery is performed in the presence of these conditions, it is expected that the rationale for proceeding with the surgery under such circumstances is clearly documented in the medical record:

• Absence or relative insufficiency of abductor musculature

• Any process that is rapidly destroying bone

• Neurotrophic arthritis

This local coverage determination (LCD) is only addressing medical necessity criteria for performing total hip replacement surgery.
General Information

Utilization Guidelines

It is expected that these services would be performed as indicated by current medical literature and/or standards of practice. When services are performed in excess of established parameters they may be subject to review for medical necessity.

The devices/implants utilized for total hip replacement surgeries are regulated by the FDA as medical devices. The devices used should be class II or class III devices that meet the requirements outlined in CFR 21, Chapter 1, subchapter H, Part 888.

Sources of Information


Bibliography

N/A

### Revision History Information

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<td>12/01/2019</td>
<td>R2</td>
<td>12/01/2019: At this time 21st Century Cures Act will apply to new and revised LCDs that restrict coverage which requires comment and notice. This revision is not a restriction to the coverage. As required by CR 10901, all billing and coding information has been moved to the companion article; this article is linked to the LCD.</td>
<td>• Provider Education/Guidance • Revisions Due To Code Removal</td>
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<td>Effective 09/07/2016 LCD revised to remove the following 7th character information from Paragraph 1 and added each appropriate 7th character to each of the appropriate diagnosis codes. Total Hip Arthroplasty The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category M80 as well as to each code from subcategories M84.3, M84.4, M84.5 and M84.6 from the following list: o A: initial encounter for fracture o D: subsequent encounter for fracture with</td>
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The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category **S32** from the following list:
- o A: initial encounter for closed fracture
- o B: initial encounter for open fracture
- o D: subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
- o G: subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
- o K: subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
- o S: sequela

The appropriate 7th character is to be added to all of the codes from category **S72** from the following list:
- o A: initial encounter for closed fracture
- o B: initial encounter for open fracture type I or II initial encounter for open fracture NOS
- o C: initial encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC
- o D: subsequent encounter for closed fracture with routine healing
- o E: subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing
- o F: subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with routine healing
- o G: subsequent encounter for closed fracture with delayed healing
- o H: subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with delayed healing
- o J: subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with delayed healing
- o K: subsequent encounter for closed fracture
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The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from subcategory **S79.0** from the following list:
- o A: initial encounter for closed fracture
- o D: subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
- o G: subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
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- o P: subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion
- o S: sequela

The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category **T84** from the following list:
- o A: initial encounter
- o D: subsequent encounter
- o S: sequela

Effective 10/01/2016 LCD revised to add ICD-10-CM codes M97.01XA, M97.01XD M97.01XS, M97.02XA, M97.02XD and M97.02XS.

Effective 10/01/2016 deleted ICD-10 CM codes T84.040A, T84.040D, T84.040S, T87.041A, T84.041D & T84.041S
Associated Documents

Attachments
N/A

Related Local Coverage Documents
Article(s)
A57684 - Billing and Coding: Total Hip Arthroplasty
A55076 - Response to Comments: Total Hip Arthroplasty

LCD(s)
DL36573
- (MCD Archive Site)

Related National Coverage Documents
N/A

Public Version(s)
Updated on 11/15/2019 with effective dates 12/01/2019 - N/A
Updated on 09/22/2016 with effective dates 10/01/2016 - 11/30/2019
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