

Title: Varicose Vein Therapy	Division: Medical Management Department: Utilization Management
Approval Date: 08/14/17	LOB: Medicaid, Medicare, HIV SNP, CHP, MetroPlus Gold, Gold Care I&II, Market Plus, Essential, HARP, UltraCare
Effective Date: 8/14/17	Policy Number: UM-MP214
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1. POLICY DESCRIPTION:

This policy describes the conditions under which MetroPlus will cover treatment of varicose veins.

2. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:

Medical Management Administration, Utilization Management, Integrated Care Management, Pharmacy, Claim Department, Providers Contracting.

3. DEFINITIONS:

Cyanoacrylate Embolization (CAE) Ablation: Minimally invasive, non-tumescent, non-thermal and non-sclerosant procedure that uses a medical adhesive to close the diseased vein in patients with symptomatic venous reflux.

Division: Cutting the vein to prevent blood flow after ligation is performed.

Endovenous Ablation: A minimally invasive procedure that uses heat generated by laser or radiofrequency energy to seal off damaged veins.

Greater saphenous vein (GSV): Originates from the dorsal arch of the foot and progresses medially and proximally along the distal extremity to join the common femoral vein.

Ligation: Inserting sutures around a vein and tying the vein off to interrupt the blood flow.

Phlebectomy: Removing small lengths of vein through a small incision or “stab”.

Reticular Veins: Dilated, nonpalpable, subdermal veins measuring 1-3mm in diameter.

Sclerotherapy: Introducing a chemical substance into a vein causing the vein to scar and close.

Small saphenous vein (SSV): Superficial vein of the calf.

Spider Telangiectasias: Dilated intradermal venules measuring less than 1mm in diameter

Stripping: Surgical removal of lengths of a vein.

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Varicose Veins: Dilated, palpable, subcutaneous veins greater than 3mm in diameter.

4. POLICY:

- A. **The following treatments may be approved after a doppler, or duplex ultrasound is performed within 6 months prior to the treatment:**
- a. **Ligation, subfascial endoscopic surgery** for the treatment of perforating veins associated with chronic venous insufficiency is considered medically necessary when Interqual criteria are met.
 - b. **Endovenous Ablation, Endovenous Thermal Ablation, Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)** for the treatment of the great saphenous vein (GSV), anterior accessory great saphenous vein (AAGSV), or small saphenous veins (SSV) is considered medically necessary when all the following are met:
 - a. Previous ablation of the same vein, on the same extremity, has not been performed within the previous 6 weeks nor more than 3 times in the previous 12 months.
 - b. Interqual criteria are met.
 - c. **Sclerotherapy or echo sclerotherapy including ultrasound guided foam sclerotherapy (UGFS)** for the anterolateral thigh vein, anterior accessory saphenous vein, intersaphenous vein(s), or perforator veins is considered medically necessary for a maximum of 20 injections per leg, per lifetime when all the following are met:
 - a. The vein being treated is greater than 3.0mm in diameter.
 - b. Interqual criteria are met
 - c. Sclerotherapy alone may not be approved for persons with reflux at the saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal junctions; individuals with reflux should also be treated with endovenous ablation, ligation, or division of the junction to reduce the risk of varicose vein recurrence.
 - d. **Subfascial endoscopic perforator surgery (SEPS)** is considered medically necessary when used for treatment of one of the following confirmed conditions:
 - a. Venous stasis dermatitis/ulceration
 - b. Chronic venous insufficiency
 - e. **Medicare only - Cyanoacrylate Embolization (CAE) Ablation** is an accepted treatment for eliminating the saphenous (great saphenous vein (GSV), anterior accessory GSV (AAGSV), small saphenous vein (SSV)) reflux (saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal). The

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treatments to eliminate the saphenous vein reflux will be considered medically necessary if the patient remains symptomatic after a six-week trial of documented conservative therapy and has reflux in a saphenous vein. Coverage of endovenous ablation therapy is limited to patients with a maximum vein diameter of 12 mm and the absence of thrombosis or vein tortuosity, which would impair catheter advancement.

B. The following treatments are considered experimental/investigational:

- a. Photothermal sclerosis.
- b. Transdermal laser treatment.
- c. Endomechanical or mechanicochemical ablation.
- d. Asclera polidocanol injection.
- e. Micronized purified flavonoid fraction.
- f. VeinGogh Ohmic Thermolysis System.
- g. Use of medical adhesive such as VariClose Vein Sealing System or VenaSeal Closure System for all lines of business except Medicare..
- h. Polymorphism genotyping of matrix metalloproteinases genes.
- i. Synthetic matrix metalloproteinases inhibitors.
- j. Measurements of plasma growth factors.
- k. Endovenous ablation for treatment of reflux of the common femoral vein.
- l. Sclerotherapy for treatment of reflux of iliac vein, the saphenofemoral junction or saphenopopliteal junction because sclerotherapy has not been proven to be effective for treatment of junctional reflux.
- m. VeinOPlus vascular device for the treatment of muscle atrophy due to varicose veins.
- n. Any interventional treatment that uses equipment or sclerosants not approved for such purposes by the FDA.

C. Repeat Treatments:

- a. For the greater saphenous, lesser saphenous, and accessory saphenous veins are considered medically necessary for persons with persistent or recurrent junctional reflux of the greater saphenous vein or lesser saphenous vein following initial endovenous ablation therapy or for accessory saphenous veins with persistent or recurrent reflux.
- b. For varicose tributaries and accessory veins other than the accessory saphenous vein are considered experimental and investigational.

D. The following procedures are considered cosmetic in nature and therefore, are not a covered benefit:

- a. Repeat treatments for any other indication not outlined in section 4 above.

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- b. Treatment using sclerotherapy or various laser treatments including tunable dye or pulsed dye laser of the telangiectasia veins (reticular, capillary, or venule) which may be described as “spider veins” or “broken blood vessels”.
- c. Sclerotherapy for the great saphenous vein or varicose veins greater than 7mm in diameter.
- d. Treatment of incompetent perforator veins without presence of venous ulcer or history of venous ulcer and procedure is being done to prevent recurrence.

5. APPLICABLE PROCEDURE CODES:

CPT	Description
36465	Injection of non-compounded foam sclerosant with ultrasound compression maneuvers to guide dispersion of the injectate, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring; single incompetent extremity truncal vein (e.g., great saphenous vein, accessory saphenous vein).
36466	Injection of non-compounded foam sclerosant with ultrasound compression maneuvers to guide dispersion of the injectate, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring; multiple incompetent truncal veins (e.g., great saphenous vein, accessory saphenous vein), same leg.
36470	Injection of sclerosing solution; single vein
36471	multiple veins, same leg
36475	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, radiofrequency; first vein treated
36476	second and subsequent veins treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
36478	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, laser; first vein treated
36479	second and subsequent veins treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
37500	Vascular endoscopy, surgical, with ligation of perforator veins, subfascial (SEPS)
37700	Ligation and division of long saphenous vein at saphenofemoral junction, or distal interruptions
37718	Ligation, division, and stripping, short saphenous vein
37722	Ligation, division, and stripping, long (greater) saphenous veins from saphenofemoral junction to knee or below

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37735	Ligation and division and complete stripping of long or short saphenous veins with radical excision of ulcer and skin graft and/or interruption of communicating veins of lower leg, with excision of deep fascia
37760	Ligation of perforator veins, subfascial, radical (Linton type), including skin graft, when performed, open, 1 leg
37761	Ligation of perforator vein(s), subfascial, open, including ultrasound guidance, when performed, 1 leg
37765	Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, one extremity; 10-20 stab incisions [ambulatory]
37766	more than 20 incisions [ambulatory]
37780	Ligation and division of short saphenous vein at saphenopopliteal junction (separate procedure)
37785	Ligation, division, and/or excision of varicose vein cluster(s), one leg
37799	Unlisted procedure, vascular surgery (Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, one extremity; less than 10 stab incisions)
76942	Ultrasonic guidance for needle placement (eg, biopsy, aspiration, injection, localization device), imaging supervision and interpretation
93970	Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; complete bilateral study
93971	Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; unilateral or limited study
J3490	Unclassified drugs
S2202	Echosclerotherapy

6. APPLICABLE DIAGNOSIS CODES:

CODE	Description
I80.00	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of unspecified lower extremity
I80.01	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of right lower extremity
I80.02	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of left lower extremity
I80.03	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of lower extremities, bilateral
I80.10	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified femoral vein
I80.11	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right femoral vein
I80.12	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left femoral vein

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I80.13	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of femoral vein, bilateral
I80.201	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of right lower extremity
I80.202	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of left lower extremity
I80.203	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of lower extremities, bilateral
I80.209	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of unspecified lower extremity
I80.221	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right popliteal vein
I80.222	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left popliteal vein
I80.223	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of popliteal vein, bilateral
I80.229	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified popliteal vein
I80.231	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right tibial vein
I80.232	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left tibial vein
I80.233	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of tibial vein, bilateral
I80.239	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified tibial vein
I80.291	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of right lower extremity
I80.292	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of left lower extremity
I80.293	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of lower extremity, bilateral
I80.299	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of unspecified lower extremity
I80.3	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities, unspecified
I83.001	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of thigh
I83.002	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of calf
I83.003	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of ankle
I83.004	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot
I83.005	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot
I83.008	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg
I83.009	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site
I83.011	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of thigh

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I83.012	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of calf
I83.013	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of ankle
I83.014	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot
I83.015	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot
I83.018	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg
I83.019	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site
I83.021	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of thigh
I83.022	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of calf
I83.023	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of ankle
I83.024	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot
I83.025	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot
I83.028	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg
I83.029	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site
I83.10	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with inflammation
I83.11	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with inflammation
I83.12	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with inflammation
I83.201	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of thigh and inflammation
I83.202	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation
I83.203	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation
I83.204	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation

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183.205	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation
183.208	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation
183.209	Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of unspecified site and inflammation
183.211	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of thigh and inflammation
183.212	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation
183.213	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation
183.214	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation
183.215	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation
183.218	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation
183.219	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of unspecified site and inflammation
183.221	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of thigh and inflammation
183.222	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation
183.223	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation
183.224	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation
183.225	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation
183.228	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation
183.229	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation

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I83.811	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with pain
I83.812	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with pain
I83.813	Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with pain
I83.891	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with other complications
I83.892	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with other complications
I83.893	Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with other complications
I87.1	Compression of vein
I87.2	Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral)

7. REFERENCES:

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Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L33575. Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremity, Treatment of.

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8. REVISION LOG:

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Approved:	Date:	Approved:	Date:
Glendon Henry, MD Senior Medical Director		Sanjiv Shah, MD Chief Medical Officer	

Medical Guideline Disclaimer:

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