Subject: Endoscopic and Minimally Invasive Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)*

Effective Date: April 24, 2007

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Endoscopic therapeutic interventions for GERD (ICD-9 530.11 or 530.81; ICD 10- K21.0, K21.9) are not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to exclude coverage of treatments not adequately supported by peer-reviewed literature.

Procedure:

1. Treatment of GERD with endoscopic devices will be denied coverage because there is not a satisfactory body of peer-reviewed literature that supports the efficacy of this approach to GERD.

2. CPT and HCPCS codes addressed by this policy include:

   - 43210- Endoscopic full-thickness plication of the gastric cardia
   - 43257 - EGD with application of thermal energy to muscle of the lower esophageal sphincter or gastric cardia for treatment of GERD
   - 43192, 43201( when used for treatment of GERD) injection of biocompatible material
• 43284, 43285-placement of esophageal sphincter augmentation device (i.e. magnetic band)


References


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Rothstein RI. Endoscopic therapy for gastroesophageal reflux disease: Sewing/plication techniques. UpToDate v 15.1 November 28, 2006. available at www.udtol.com/udt/content/topic.do?topicKey= eso_dis/12982&view=print accessed 03/05/07


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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail*