



Subject: Platelet-Rich Plasma*

Effective Date: July 28, 2009

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: The use of platelet-rich plasma (sometimes called platelet gel) is **not** reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to limit coverage to interventions with adequate substantiation of efficacy in peer-reviewed literature.

Procedure: Requests for coverage of the use of platelet-rich plasma or gel (CPT- 0232T HCPCS –G0460, S9055) for tendinopathy, wound healing, or any other indication, will be denied because there is not sufficient peer-reviewed literature that substantiates the efficacy of this intervention. It is therefore deemed experimental, investigational or unproven.

A. Other CPT and HCPCS codes that are not reimbursable when used together with CPT-0232T, HCPCS –G0460, S9055 include but are not limited to the following:

1. **20550** (tendon sheath injection)
2. **36415** (venipuncture)
3. **36513** (therapeutic apheresis for platelets)
4. **J3590** (unclassified biologics)
5. **20926** (tissue grafts, other)

B. Because the CPT code 20926 (tissue grafts, other) is sometimes used to represent the injection of platelet-rich plasma during certain orthopedic procedures, this CPT code is NOT reimbursable when coupled with diagnoses that include but are not limited to the following:

CPT Code 20926 is NOT reimbursable when coupled with the following ICD-9 Codes	
715	osteoarthritis and allied disorders
717.7	chondromalacia of patella
719	other and unspecified disorders of joint
726	peripheral enthesopathies and allied syndromes
727	other disorders of synovium, tendon, and bursa
728.6	contracture of palmar fascia (Dupuytren's)
728.7	other fibromatoses of muscle, ligament, or fascia
728.71	plantar fascial fibromatosis
729.4	fasciitis, unspecified
840	sprains and strains of shoulder and upper arm
841	sprains and strains of elbow and forearm
842	sprains and strains of wrist and hand
843	sprains and strains of hip and thigh
844	sprains and strains of knee and leg
845	sprains and strains of ankle and foot
846	sprains and strains of sacroiliac region
847	sprains and strains of other and unspecified parts of back
848	other and ill-defined sprains and strains

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Revised By/Date: BFisher, MD 01/04/10

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Approved By/Date: QM Committee 8/22/17

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