Subject: Sural Nerve Graft with Or Following Radical Prostatectomy

Effective Date: October 2, 2003

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Sural nerve graft during radical prostatectomy is **not** reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc. Penile re-innervation surgery after radical prostatectomy is **not** reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement

Procedure:

A. Sural nerve grafting may be requested as a procedure to be done during radical prostatectomy when the cavernous nerves cannot be spared, or after radical prostatectomy for a somatic-autonomic neurorraphy re-innervation.

B. When sural nerve grafting as a procedure to be done during radical prostatectomy or penile re-innervation surgery after radical prostatectomy is requested, coverage will be denied because, in the absence of an adequate body of peer-reviewed literature supporting its efficacy, it is deemed experimental, investigational, or unproven.

C. **CPT** codes that may be submitted to indicate sural nerve graft during prostatectomy are: 64890, 64891,
64892, 64893, 64895, 64896, 64897, 64898, and 64901.

References:


Williams RD. What’s new in urology. *J Am Coll Surg* 2002;195(5) 663-674 (Nov)


Scardino PT, Kim ED. Rationale for and results of nerve grafting during radical prostatectomy. *Urology* 2001;57(6):1016-1019 (Jun)

Walsh PC. Nerve grafts are rareley necessary and are unlikely to improve sexual function in men undergoing anatomic radical prostatectomy. *Urology* 2001;57(6):1020-1024 (Jun)


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