



Subject: Vitamin B-12 Therapy (injectable)*

Effective Date: May 21, 2007

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Injectable vitamin B-12 is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc., for conditions enumerated in this Policy.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to delineate criteria for coverage of a specific injectable product

Procedure:

A. Vitamin B-12 injections (**HCPCS J3420**) are reimbursable for the following:

1. Vitamin B-12 deficiency (**ICD-9 266.2**) (**ICD 10- D81.818, D81.819, E53.8**)
2. Pernicious anemia (**ICD-9 281.0**) (**ICD 10- D51.0**)
3. Macrocytic anemia associated with diphyllbothriasis (fish tapeworm infection) (**ICD-9 123.4**) (**ICD 10- B70.0**)
4. Malabsorption syndromes that can lead to Vitamin B-12 deficiency, including but not limited to
 - a. Non-tropical sprue (celiac disease) (**ICD-9 579.0**) (**ICD 10- K90.0**)
 - b. Blind loop syndrome (**ICD-9 579.2**) (**ICD 10- K90.2**)

- c. Total or subtotal gastrectomy (**ICD-9 V45.75**) (**ICD 10- Z90.3**)
 - d. Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (**ICD-9 V45.86**) (**ICD 10- Z98.84**)
 - e. Deficiency of intrinsic factor, including but not limited to that associated with gastric achlorhydria (**ICD-9 281.0 or 280.9**) (**ICD 10- D51.0, D50.9**)
5. Methylmalonic aciduria (**ICD-9 270.7**) (**ICD 10- E71.120**)
 6. Homocystinuria (**ICD-9 270.4**) (**ICD 10- E72.1**)
- B. Injections with Vitamin B-12 are reimbursable daily for the first 30 days of treatment for acute neurologic manifestations of pernicious anemia; and no more frequently than once monthly for other indications.
- C. Injectable Vitamin B-12 is not reimbursable for chronic fatigue syndrome (**ICD-9 780.71**) (**ICD 10- R53.82**), as a “tonic” for patients complaining of tiredness or easy fatigue, multiple sclerosis and other neuropathies, and other diseases or conditions not listed under “A” above. For these conditions there is no evidence of their medical necessity in peer-reviewed literature.

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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.