Subject: Wigs*

Effective Date: March 27, 2007

Department: Utilization Management

Policy: Wigs (considered to be a DME cranial prosthesis appliance) are reimbursable under plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to delineate criteria that provides evidence of medical necessity for a specific type of DME.

Procedure:

A. In the absence of a specific provision in the individual Summary Plan Description (SPD), wigs (HCPCS A9282) are reimbursable, up to dollar limits in individual SPDs, for hair loss caused by the following:

2. Cancer chemotherapy (999.8) (ICD 10- Z92.21)
3. Radiation therapy (990) (ICD 10- Z92.3)
4. Congenital baldness (757.4) (ICD 10-Q84.0, Q84.1, Q84.2)
5. Infections resulting in permanent hair loss that is unresponsive to treatment (704.09) (ICD 10- L63.0, L63.1, L65.9, L66.8)
6. Lupus and other connective tissue diseases (710) (ICD 10-M32.0, M32.10, M32.19, M32.8, M32.9)
7. Traumatic injury (906) (ICD 10-S01.00XS-S01.05XS, S00.00XS-S00.07XS, S07.1XXs, T20.05XS)

B. Wigs are not reimbursable for any of the following, as for these conditions they are considered not medically necessary:

1. Male pattern baldness (704.00) (ICD 10- L64.9, L65.9)
2. Female pattern baldness (704.00) (ICD 10- L64.9, L65.9)
3. Natural aging process (704.00) (ICD 10- L64.9, L65.9)
4. Damage to existing wig secondary to color dying or other wig treatment
5. Cosmetic purposes

References:


Emslie C, Whyte F, Campbell A, et al. ‘I wouldn’t have been interested in just sitting round a table talking about cancer’; exploring the experience of women with breast cancer; exploring the experience of women with breast cancer in a group exercise trial. Health Educ Res 2007; 22(6): 827-838(Dec)


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