



Corporate Medical Policy

Wound Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage

File Name: wound_therapy_noncontact_radiant_heat_bandage
Policy Number: DME0260
Origination: 10/2001
Last Review: 9/2008

Active policy, no longer scheduled for routine literature review.

Description of Procedure or Service

Noncontact radiant heat wound therapy systems have been proposed as a treatment for chronic venous stasis ulcers to enhance healing of nonhealing wounds by increasing subcutaneous oxygen tension and collagen formation. An example of such a device is the Warm-Up® Active Wound Therapy System manufactured by Augustine Medical, Inc. (now under the name, Arizant Inc., Eden Prairie, MN, USA). This device includes a bandage, heating unit, temperature control and power supply. The bandage is composed of a sterile foam collar that adheres to the periwound skin and a sterile, transparent film that covers the top of the foam collar but does not contact the wound. The wound cover is transparent and [permeable](#). The system is designed to deliver warmth and moisture to the wound and periwound area and increase the blood flow and oxygen to the site. Treatments are typically administered three times per day in 1 hour increments. As of August 15, 2003 the company discontinued selling the Warm-Up system in the United States.

Policy

Active policy, no longer scheduled for routine literature review.

BCBSNC will not provide coverage for Wound Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage. It is considered investigational. BCBSNC does not cover investigational services.

Benefits Application

Please refer to Certificate for availability of benefits. This policy relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Benefits may vary according to benefit design; therefore certificate language should be reviewed before applying the terms of the policy.

When Wound Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage is covered

Not applicable.

Policy: Wound Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage

When Wound Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage is not covered

It is not covered. It is considered investigational. BCBSNC does not cover investigational services.

Policy Guidelines

There is insufficient medical and scientific evidence in peer-reviewed medical literature to permit the Plan to evaluate the therapeutic value of noncontact radiant heat bandage wound therapy and whether or not it is more effective than other conventional therapies for treating wounds (e.g., chronic venous ulcers). (Refer to separate policy number ADM9051, Investigational (Experimental) Services.)

Billing/Coding/Physician Documentation Information

This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed. For further information on reimbursement guidelines, please see Administrative Policies on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina web site at www.bcbsnc.com. They are listed in the Category Search on the Medical Policy search page.

Applicable codes: A6000, E0231, E0232

BCBSNC may request medical records for determination of medical necessity. When medical records are requested, letters of support and/or explanation are often useful, but are not sufficient documentation unless all specific information needed to make a medical necessity determination is included.

Policy Key Words

Key Words: Wound, Wounds, Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage, Normothermic Wound Therapy, NNWT, Warm-Up Active Wound Therapy, Device, Venous Ulcers, Venous Insufficiency, Venous Insufficiencies, Venous Stasis, DME0260

Medical Term Definitions

Permeable

not impassable; pervious; permitting passage of a substance.

Scientific Background and Reference Sources

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, 2.01.41; 5/31/01

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 8/2002

ECRI Target Report #821, Noncontact Normothermic Wound Therapy (NNWT) for Chronic Wound Healing, December 2002

National Medicare Coverage Manual. Retrieved from CMS website: http://www.cms.gov/manuals/06_cim/ci60.asp#sect_60_25 on April 23, 2003.

Policy: Wound Therapy, Noncontact Radiant Heat Bandage

ECRI Hotline Response: Noncontact Normothermic Wound Therapy (NNWT) for Chronic Wound Healing. Update to ECRI Target Report #821, updated 06/29/2004.

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic Version]. 2.01.41, 10/9/03

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 8/2004

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic Version]. 2.01.41, 4/1/05.

ECRI Hotline Response - Noncontact Normothermic Wound Therapy (NNWT) for Chronic Wound Healing (12/29/05) retrieved on July 17, 2006 from http://www.ta.ecri.org/Hotline/Prod/summary/detail.aspx?e=6&doc_id=7802&q=NNWT&anm

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic Version]. 2.01.41, 3/7/06.

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 8/30/2006

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual [Electronic Version]. 2.01.41, 6/14/07

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 9/4/08

Policy Implementation/Update Information

- 10/01 Original policy issued.
- 5/03 Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review. Codes A6000, E0231, E0232 added to policy. Sources added. No change to criteria.
- 9/23/04 Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review. No changes recommended. Sources added.
- 10/2/06 Added policy guidelines and reference sources. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review. No changes to criteria recommended.
- 10/6/08 Added Key Words and reference sources. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review. No changes to criteria. Policy status changed to "Active policy, no longer scheduled for routine literature review."

Medical policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the group contract and subscriber certificate that is in effect at the time services are rendered. This document is solely provided for informational purposes only and is based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Medical practices and knowledge are constantly changing and BCBSNC reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically.

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