Dermabrasion

Origination: July 30, 1991
Review Date: August 17, 2016
Next Review: August, 2018

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE OR SERVICE
Conventional dermabrasion uses the method of controlled surgical abrasion of the epidermis and superficial dermis with wire brushes, diamond fraise, sandpaper, rasps and burrs. Laser brasion (Tunable Dye, CO² and Ruby lasers) and chemobrasion (phenol, trichloroacetic acid and glycolic acid) are modalities of treatment that are used in place of conventional dermabrasion.

POLICY STATEMENT
Coverage will be provided for dermabrasion when it is determined to be medically necessary because the medical criteria and guidelines shown below are met.

BENEFIT APPLICATION
Please refer to the member’s individual Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for benefit determination. Coverage will be approved according to the EOC limitations if the criteria are met.

Coverage decisions will be made in accordance with:
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) national coverage decisions;
- General coverage guidelines included in original Medicare manuals unless superseded by operational policy letters or regulations; and
- Written coverage decisions of local Medicare carriers and intermediaries with jurisdiction for claims in the geographic area in which services are covered.

Benefit payments are subject to contractual obligations of the Plan. If there is a conflict between the general policy guidelines contained in the Medical Coverage Policy Manual and the terms of the member’s particular Evidence of Coverage (EOC) the EOC always governs the determination of benefits.
INDICATIONS FOR COVERAGE
1. Preauthorization by the Plan is required; AND
2. Ordered by a Physician; AND
3. Documentation of one of the following:
   a. Removal of road pigment; as asphalt burns etc; or
   b. A diagnosis of actinic keratosis; or
   c. Correction of defects resulting from traumatic injury, surgery or disease;
   d. A diagnosis of Rosacea.

WHEN COVERAGE WILL NOT BE APPROVED
Dermabrasion will not be covered for diagnoses such as:
- Acne and acne scars,
- Reduction of rhytides (skin wrinkles),
- Removal of non-traumatic tattoos (i.e., tattoos of roses, leopards),
- Smoothing irregularities from traumatic scars,
- Diagnoses that do not support medical necessity because no functional impairment exist.

BILLING/ CODING/PHYSICIAN DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION
This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in the section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed.

Applicable codes: 15780, 15781, 15782, 15783

The Plan 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.

References:

Policy Implementation/Update Information:
Revision Date: September 28, 1998; August 17, 2001; October 1, 2001; October 3, 2001; November 8, 2001; November 14, 2001; June 22, 2005.
Revision Date: February 2007: Clarified conservative treatment modalities; no further criteria changes made.
Revision Date: September 2009: No changes proposed to the review criteria. Formatting and minor wording changes only.
Revision Date: March 2012-Added coverage criteria from LCD L31784.
Revision Date: August 20, 2014; Annual Review; Mirrored NCD and LCD. October 29, 2015 updated LCD due to ICD-10 update only.
Revision Date: August 17, 2016; Annual Review; No Changes to Policy (no CMS changes).

Approval Dates:
Medical Coverage Policy Committee: August 17, 2016

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