Coverage Summary

Family Planning (Birth Control)

Approved by: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee  Last Review Date: 11/15/2016
Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline: Sterilization (NCD 230.3)

This information is being distributed to you for personal reference. The information belongs to UnitedHealthcare and unauthorized copying, use, and distribution are prohibited. This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource and is not intended to address every aspect of a clinical situation. Physicians and patients should not rely on this information in making health care decisions. Physicians and patients must exercise their independent clinical discretion and judgment in determining care. Each benefit plan contains its own specific provisions for coverage, limitations, and exclusions as stated in the Member’s Evidence of Coverage (EOC)/Summary of Benefits (SB). If there is a discrepancy between this policy and the member’s EOC/SB, the member’s EOC/SB provision will govern. The information contained in this document is believed to be current as of the date noted.

The benefit information in this Coverage Summary is based on existing national coverage policy, however, Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable.

INDEX TO COVERAGE SUMMARY

I. COVERAGE
II. DEFINITIONS
III. REFERENCES
IV. REVISION HISTORY

I. COVERAGE

Coverage Statement: Family planning for prevention of pregnancy is only covered incidental to a physician office visit.

Guidelines/Notes:
1. Office visits for general education, counseling, and instruction on birth control methods are covered.
2. Routine pregnancy testing is covered as reasonable and necessary to determine a patient’s status.
3. Sterilization is covered only when necessary as a part of the treatment of an illness or injury. Examples include, but are not limited to:
   a. Payment may be made only where sterilization is a necessary part of the treatment of an illness or injury, e.g. removal of the uterus because of a tumor, removal of diseased ovaries
   b. Sterilization of a mentally challenged beneficiary is covered if it is a necessary part of the treatment of an illness or injury (bilateral oophorectomy or bilateral orchidectomy in a case of cancer of the prostate).

See the NCD for Sterilization (230.3)  (Accessed October 20, 2016)
4. The following are examples of **non-covered services**, but are not limited to:
   c. Non-prescription contraceptive supplies; *refer to the member’s EOC*
   d. Reversal of sterilization procedures; *refer to the member’s EOC*
   e. Elective hysterectomy, tubal ligation or vasectomy if the sole reason for the procedure is sterilization; *see the NCD for Sterilization (230.3)*. (Accessed October 20, 2016)
   f. Sterilization performed because the physician believes another pregnancy would endanger the overall general health of the woman; *see the NCD for Sterilization (230.3)*. (Accessed October 20, 2016)
   g. Sterilization performed only as a means to prevent the possible development of, or an effect on, a mental condition should the individual become pregnant; *see the NCD for Sterilization (230.3)*. (Accessed October 20, 2016)
   h. Sterilization performed only to prevent conception in a mentally challenged member; *see the NCD for Sterilization (230.3)*. (Accessed October 20, 2016)

### II. DEFINITIONS

### III. REFERENCES

See above

### IV. REVISION HISTORY

11/15/2016 Annual review with no updates.
11/17/2015 Annual review with no updates.
12/16/2014 Annual review with following updates:
   - Guidelines #1 – Removed duplicate verbiage “Devices and procedures are not covered” (is mentioned in guidelines #4.a).
   - Guidelines #3 – Updated language to match language from the NCD for Sterilization (230.3).
   - Guidelines #4 – Added applicable CMS references or reference to the member’s EOC.
   - Definitions – Deleted definition of *birth control* and *family planning*, unable to find applicable CMS references.
12/17/2013 Annual review with no updates.
12/17/2012  Annual review with no updates.
12/19/2011  Annual review with no updates.
11/16/2010  Annual review with no updates.