INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This Policy Guideline is applicable to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans offered by UnitedHealthcare and its affiliates for health care services submitted on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms (CMS 1450), or their electronic comparative. The information presented in this Policy Guideline is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication.

This Policy Guideline provides assistance in administering health benefits. All reviewers must first identify member eligibility, any federal or state regulatory requirements, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policy, the member specific benefit plan coverage, and individual provider contracts prior to use of this Policy Guideline. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced. The terms of the member specific benefit plan document may differ greatly from the standard benefit plan upon which this Policy Guideline is based. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document supersedes this Policy Guideline. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary.

UnitedHealthcare follows Medicare coverage guidelines and regularly updates its Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines to comply with changes in CMS policy. UnitedHealthcare encourages physicians and other healthcare professionals to keep current with any CMS policy changes and/or billing requirements by referring to the CMS or your local carrier website regularly. Physicians and other healthcare professionals can sign up for regular distributions for policy or regulatory changes directly from CMS and/or your local carrier. This Policy Guideline is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

POLICY SUMMARY

Overview
Wound healing is a dynamic, interactive process that involves multiple cells and proteins. There are three progressive stages of normal wound healing, and the typical wound healing duration is about 4 weeks. While cutaneous wounds are a disruption of the normal, anatomic structure and function of the skin, subcutaneous wounds involve tissue below the skin's surface. Wounds are categorized as either acute, in where the normal wound healing stages are not yet completed but it is presumed they will be, resulting in orderly and timely wound repair, or chronic, in where a wound has failed to progress through the normal wound healing stages and repair itself within a sufficient time period.

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) is produced in an autologous or homologous manner. Autologous PRP is comprised of blood from the patient who will ultimately receive the PRP. Alternatively, homologous PRP is derived from blood from multiple donors.

Blood is donated by the patient and centrifuged to produce an autologous gel for treatment of chronic, non-healing cutaneous wounds that persist for 30 days or longer and fail to properly complete the healing process. Autologous blood derived products for chronic, non-healing wounds includes both: (1) platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) products (such as Procuren), and (2) PRP (such as AutoloGel).

The PRP is different from previous products in that it contains whole cells including white cells, red cells, plasma, platelets, fibrinogen, stem cells, macrophages, and fibroblasts.
The PRP is used by physicians in clinical settings in treating chronic, non-healing wounds, open, cutaneous wounds, soft tissue and bone. Alternatively, PDGF does not contain cells and was previously marketed as a product to be used by patients at home.

**Guidelines**

**Nationally Covered Indications**

Effective August 2, 2012, upon reconsideration, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that platelet-rich plasma (PRP) – an autologous blood-derived product, will be covered only for the treatment of chronic non-healing diabetic, venous and/or pressure wounds and only when the following conditions are met:

The patient is enrolled in a randomized clinical trial that addresses the following questions using validated and reliable methods of evaluation. Clinical study applications for coverage pursuant to this National coverage Determination (NCD) must be received by August 2, 2014.

The clinical research study must meet the requirements specified below to assess the effect of PRP for the treatment of chronic non-healing diabetic, venous and/or pressure wounds. The clinical study must address:

- prospectively, do Medicare beneficiaries that have chronic non-healing diabetic, venous and/or pressure wounds who receive well-defined optimal usual care along with PRP therapy, experience clinically significant health outcomes compared to patients who receive well-defined optimal usual care for chronic non-healing diabetic, venous and/or pressure wounds as indicated by addressing at least one of the following:
  - Complete wound healing?
  - Ability to return to previous function and resumption of normal activities?
  - Reduction of wound size or healing trajectory which results in the patient’s ability to return to previous function and resumption of normal activities?

- The required clinical trial of PRP must adhere to the following standards of scientific integrity and relevance to the Medicare population:
  - The principal purpose of the clinical study is to test whether PRP improves the participants’ health outcomes.
  - The clinical study is well supported by available scientific and medical information or it is intended to clarify or establish the health outcomes of interventions already in common clinical use.
  - The clinical study does not unjustifiably duplicate existing studies.
  - The clinical study design is appropriate to answer the research question being asked in the study.
  - The clinical study is sponsored by an organization or individual capable of executing the proposed study successfully.
  - The clinical study is in compliance with all applicable Federal regulations concerning the protection of human subjects found at 45 CFR Part 46.
  - All aspects of the clinical study are conducted according to appropriate standards of scientific integrity set by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org).
  - The clinical study has a written protocol that clearly addresses, or incorporates by reference, the standards listed here as Medicare requirements for coverage with evidence development (CED).
  - The clinical study is not designed to exclusively test toxicity or disease pathophysiology in healthy individuals. Trials of all medical technologies measuring therapeutic outcomes as one of the objectives meet this standard only if the disease or condition being studied is life threatening as defined in 21 CFR §312.81(a) and the patient has no other viable treatment options.
  - The clinical study is registered on the ClinicalTrials.gov website by the principal sponsor/investigator prior to the enrollment of the first study subject.
  - The clinical study protocol specifies the method and timing of public release of all pre-specified outcomes to be measured including release of outcomes if outcomes are negative or study is terminated early. The results must be made public within 24 months of the end of data collection. If a report is planned to be published in a peer reviewed journal, then that initial release may be an abstract that meets the requirements of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org). However a full report of the outcomes must be made public no later than three (3) years after the end of data collection.
  - The clinical study protocol must explicitly discuss subpopulations affected by the treatment under investigation, particularly traditionally underrepresented groups in clinical studies, how the inclusion and exclusion criteria effect enrollment of these populations, and a plan for the retention and reporting of said populations on the trial. If the inclusion and exclusion criteria are expected to have a negative effect on the recruitment or retention of underrepresented populations, the protocol must discuss why these criteria are necessary.
  - The clinical study protocol explicitly discusses how the results are or are not expected to be generalizable to the Medicare population to infer whether Medicare patients may benefit from the intervention. Separate discussions in the protocol may be necessary for populations eligible for Medicare due to age, disability or Medicaid eligibility.
Consistent with §1142 of the Social Security Act (the Act), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) supports clinical research studies that CMS determines meet the above-listed standards and address the above-listed research questions.

Any clinical study undertaken pursuant to this NCD must be approved no later than August 2, 2014. If there are no approved clinical studies on or before August 2, 2014, this CED will expire. Any clinical study approved will adhere to the timeframe designated in the approved clinical study protocol.

**Nationally Noncovered Indications**
- Effective December 28, 1992, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a national non-coverage determination for platelet-derived wound-healing formulas intended to treat patients with chronic, non-healing wounds. This decision was based on a lack of sufficient published data to determine safety and efficacy, and a public health service technology assessment.
- Effective July 23, 2004, upon reconsideration, the clinical effectiveness of autologous PDGF products continues to not be adequately proven in scientific literature. As the evidence is insufficient to conclude that autologous PDGF in a platelet-poor plasma is reasonable and necessary, it remains non-covered for treatment of chronic, non-healing cutaneous wounds. Also, the clinical evidence does not support a benefit in the application of autologous PRP for the treatment of chronic, non-healing, cutaneous wounds. Therefore, CMS determines it is not reasonable and necessary and is nationally non-covered.
- Effective April 27, 2006, coverage for treatments utilizing becaplermin, a non-autologous growth factor for chronic, non-healing subcutaneous wounds, remains nationally non-covered under Part B based on section 1861 (s)(2)(A) and (B) of the Social Security Act because this product is usually administered by the patient.
- Effective March 19, 2008, upon reconsideration, the evidence is not adequate to conclude that autologous PRP is reasonable and necessary and remains non-covered for the treatment of chronic non-healing, cutaneous wounds. Additionally, upon reconsideration, the evidence is not adequate to conclude that autologous PRP is reasonable and necessary for the treatment of acute surgical wounds when the autologous PRP is applied directly to the closed incision, or for dehiscent wounds.

**Other**
In accordance with section 310.1 of the National Coverage Determinations Manual, the routine costs in Federally sponsored or approved clinical trials assessing the efficacy of autologous PRP in treating chronic, non-healing cutaneous wounds are covered by Medicare.

### APPLICABLE CODES

The following list(s) of codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this guideline does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

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<tr>
<th>HCPCS Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G0460</td>
<td>Autologous platelet rich plasma for chronic wounds/ulcers, including phlebotomy, centrifugation, and all other preparatory procedures, administration and dressings, per treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S0157</td>
<td>Becaplermin gel 0.01%, 0.5 gm (Not Covered by Medicare)</td>
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<tr>
<td>S9055</td>
<td>Procuren or other growth factor preparation to promote wound healing (Not Covered By Medicare)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
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<tr>
<td>GZ</td>
<td>Item or service expected to be denied as not reasonable and necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q0</td>
<td>Investigational clinical service provided in a clinical research study that is in an approved clinical research study</td>
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<td>Q1</td>
<td>Routine clinical service provided in a clinical research study that is in an approved clinical research study</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>On campus-outpatient hospital</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Independent clinic</td>
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**ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes**
The attached list of ICD-10 diagnosis codes may be covered only when HCPCS code G0460 is billed with Z00.6.

**REFERENCES**

**CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)**
* NCD 270.3 Blood-Derived Products for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds

**CMS Claims Processing Manual**
* Chapter 32: § 11.3 Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds

**CMS Transmittals**
* Transmittal 152, Change Request 8213, Dated 03/08/2013 (Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds)
* Transmittal 153, Change Request 8213, Dated 05/21/2013 (Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds)
* Transmittal 154, Change Request 8213, Dated 06/10/2013 (Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds)
* Transmittal 977, Change Request 5123, Dated 06/09/2006 (Non-Autologous Blood Derived Products for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds)
* Transmittal 2666, Change Request 8213, Dated 03/08/2013 (Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds)
* Transmittal 2720, Change Request 8213, Dated 06/10/2013 (Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) for Chronic Non-Healing Wounds)

**MLN Matters**
* Article MM8401, Mandatory Reporting of an 8-Digit Clinical Trial Number on Claims

**UnitedHealthcare Commercial Policies**
* Platelet Derived Growth Factors for Treatment of Wounds

**Others**
* Medicare Managed Care Manual Chapter 4; § 10.7 Clinical Trials, CMS Website

**GUIDELINE HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION**

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