TREATMENT OF PSORIASIS (NCD 250.1)

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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
Psoriasis is a chronic skin disease, for which several conventional methods of treatment have been recognized as covered. These include topical application of steroids or other drugs; ultraviolet light (actinotherapy); and coal tar alone or in combination with ultraviolet B light (Goeckerman treatment).

A newer treatment for psoriasis uses a psoralen derivative drug in combination with ultraviolet A light, known as PUVA. PUVA therapy is covered for treatment of intractable, disabling psoriasis, but only after the psoriasis has not responded to more conventional treatment. The Medicare Administrative Contractor should document this before paying for PUVA therapy.

Guidelines
Reimbursement for PUVA therapy should be limited to amounts paid for other types of photochemotherapy; ordinarily, payment should not be allowed for more than 30 days of treatment, unless improvement is documented.

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.
### CPT Code | Description
--- | ---
96910 | Photochemotherapy; tar and ultraviolet B (Goeckerman treatment) or petrolatum and ultraviolet B
96912 | Photochemotherapy; psoralen and ultraviolet A (PUVA)
96913 | Photochemotherapy (Goeckerman and/or PUVA) for severe photo responsive dermatoses requiring at least 4-8 hours of care under direct supervision of the physician (includes application of medication and dressings)
96920 | Laser treatment for inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis); total area less than 250 sq. cm
96921 | Laser treatment for inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis); 250 sq. cm to 500 sq. cm
96922 | Laser treatment for inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis); over 500 sq. cm

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### REFERENCES

**CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)**

**NCD 250.1 Treatment of Psoriasis**

**CMS Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)**

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**Others**

**National Institutes of Health (NIH): Psoriasis**

### GUIDELINE HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

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<tr>
<td>10/12/2016</td>
<td>• Annual Review for MAPG Committee presentation and approval</td>
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