

Effective: January 1, 2024

<p>Prior Authorization Required If <u>REQUIRED</u>, submit supporting clinical documentation pertinent to service request to the FAX numbers below</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Notification Required IF <u>REQUIRED</u>, concurrent review may apply</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Applies to:

Commercial Products

- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Commercial products; 800-232-0816
- Tufts Health Plan Commercial products; 617-972-9409
- CareLinkSM – Refer to CareLink Procedures, Services and Items Requiring Prior Authorization

Public Plans Products

- Tufts Health Direct – A Massachusetts Qualified Health Plan (QHP) (a commercial product); 888-415-9055
- Tufts Health Together – MassHealth MCO Plan and Accountable Care Partnership Plans; 888-415-9055
- Tufts Health RItogether – A Rhode Island Medicaid Plan; 857-304-6404
- Tufts Health One Care Plan – A dual-eligible product; 857-304-6304

Senior Products

- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Stride Medicare Advantage; 866-874-0857
- Tufts Health Plan Senior Care Options (SCO), (a dual-eligible product); 617-673-0965
- Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO, (a Medicare Advantage product); 617-673-0965
- Tufts Medicare Preferred PPO, (a Medicare Advantage product); 617-673-0965

Note: While you may not be the provider responsible for obtaining prior authorization or notifying Point32Health, as a condition of payment you will need to ensure that any necessary prior authorization has been obtained and/or Point32Health has received proper notification. If notification is required, providers may additionally be required to provide updated clinical information to qualify for continued service.

Overview

Chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), or Chronic Venous Disease (CVD). Is due to abnormally high pressure in the venous system, which normally has low pressure. This high pressure is caused by venous blood not properly getting out of the leg, either due to obstruction (such as a deep venous thrombosis) or refluxing blood flow due to incompetent vein valves. Varicose veins are dilated, tortuous veins under the surface of the skin which are commonly found in legs. While exact cause of varicose veins is unknown, factors commonly associated with increased risk of developing varicose veins include family history, age, and obesity. While many individuals with varicose veins are symptom free, some may experience pain or complications from varicose veins and require a medical intervention. Most common symptoms include heaviness, aching, swelling, throbbing, and itching. In many individuals experiencing symptoms as result of varicose veins, wearing specially fitted elastic stockings is appropriate treatment. Varicose veins are abnormally enlarged and tortuous vessels that result when veins become incompetent, and this failure allows blood to flow in a retrograde direction (reflux). Varicose veins are most often noted on the back of the calf or on the inside of the leg between the groin and ankle but can occur anywhere on the extremity. Chronic venous disease is commonly stratified using the CEAP (Clinical, Etiology, Anatomy, Pathophysiology) classification, of which the Clinical (C) grade is most commonly used, and grades venous disease based on the presence of dilated veins, (C2) edema, (C3) skin changes, (C4a and b) for ulceration (C5 healed ulcer, C6 open ulcer).

Clinical Guideline Coverage Criteria

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care uses guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for coverage determinations for its Medicare Advantage plan members. CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) and documentation included in the Medicare manuals are the basis for coverage determinations where available. For **Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Medicare Advantage** plan members, the following criteria is used: [LCD - Treatment of Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremities \(L34536\) \(cms.gov\)](#), [LCD - Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremity, Treatment of \(L33575\) \(cms.gov\)](#), [Article - Billing and Coding: Treatment of Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremities \(A56914\) \(cms.gov\)](#), and [Article - Billing and Coding: Treatment of Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremity \(A52870\) \(cms.gov\)](#)

Codes

The following code(s) require prior authorization:

Table 1: CPT/HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
36465	Injection of non-compounded foam sclerosant with ultrasound compression maneuvers to guide dispersion of the injectate, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring; single incompetent extremity truncal vein (e.g., great saphenous vein, accessory saphenous vein)
36466	Injection of non-compounded foam sclerosant with ultrasound compression maneuvers to guide dispersion of the injectate, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring; multiple incompetent truncal veins (e.g., great saphenous vein, accessory saphenous vein), same leg
36468	Injection(s) of sclerosant for spider veins (telangiectasia), limb or trunk
36470	Injection of sclerosing solution; single vein
36471	Injection of sclerosing solution; multiple veins, same leg
36473	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, mechanochemical; first vein treated
36474	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, mechanochemical; subsequent vein(s) treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
36475	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, radiofrequency; first vein treated
36476	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, radiofrequency; second and subsequent veins treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
36478	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, laser; first vein treated
36479	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, laser; second and subsequent veins treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
36482	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, by transcatheter delivery of a chemical adhesive (e.g., cyanoacrylate) remote from the access site, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous; first vein treated
36483	Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, by transcatheter delivery of a chemical adhesive (e.g., cyanoacrylate) remote from the access site, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous; subsequent vein(s) treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
37500	Vascular endoscopy, surgical, with ligation of perforator veins, subfascial (SEPS)
37700	Ligation and division of long saphenous vein at saphenofemoral junction, or distal interruptions
37718	Ligation, division, and stripping, short saphenous vein
37722	Ligation, division, and stripping, long (greater) saphenous veins from saphenofemoral junction to knee or below
37735	Ligation and division and complete stripping of long or short saphenous veins with radical excision of ulcer and skin graft and/or interruption of communicating veins of lower leg, with excision of deep

Code	Description
	fascia
37760	Ligation of perforator veins, subfascial, radical (Linton type), including skin graft, when performed, open, 1 leg
37761	Ligation of perforator vein(s), subfascial, open, including ultrasound guidance, when performed, 1 leg
37765	Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, 1 extremity; 10-20 stab incisions
37766	Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, 1 extremity; more than 20 incisions
37780	Ligation and division of short saphenous vein at saphenopopliteal junction (separate procedure)
37785	Ligation, division, and/or excision of varicose vein cluster(s), 1 leg
37799	Unlisted procedure, vascular surgery
93970	Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; complete bilateral study
93971	Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; unilateral or limited study

References:

1. CMS LCD: Treatment of Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremities (L34536).
2. CMS Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Treatment of Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremity (L33575).

Approval And Revision History

May 2020: Reviewed by the Medical Policy Clinical Committee (MPCC); overview, coding and exclusions updated
Subsequent endorsement date(s) and changes made:

- April 2021: Reviewed by MPCC; renewed without changes
- April 20, 2022: Reviewed by Medical Policy Approval Committee, renewed without changes
- November 16, 2023: Reviewed by MPAC; template updated, updated criteria, effective January 1, 2024

Background, Product and Disclaimer Information

Medical Necessity Guidelines are developed to determine coverage for benefits and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. We make coverage decisions using these guidelines, along with the Member's benefit document, and in coordination with the Member's physician(s) on a case-by-case basis considering the individual Member's health care needs.

Medical Necessity Guidelines are developed for selected therapeutic or diagnostic services found to be safe and proven effective in a limited, defined population of patients or clinical circumstances. They include concise clinical coverage criteria based on current literature review, consultation with practicing physicians in our service area who are medical experts in the particular field, FDA and other government agency policies, and standards adopted by national accreditation organizations. We revise and update Medical Necessity Guidelines annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions.

For self-insured plans, coverage may vary depending on the terms of the benefit document. If a discrepancy exists between a Medical Necessity Guideline and a self-insured Member's benefit document, the provisions of the benefit document will govern. For Tufts Health Together (Medicaid), coverage may be available beyond these guidelines for pediatric members under age 21 under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits of the plan in accordance with 130 CMR 450.140 and 130 CMR 447.000, and with prior authorization.

Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of Members. The use of this guideline is not a guarantee of payment or a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization, utilization management guidelines when applicable, and adherence to plan policies, plan procedures, and claims editing logic.