Policy: MP286
Section: Medical Benefit Policy
Subject: Cholecystectomy

I. Policy: Cholecystectomy

II. Purpose/Objective:
To provide a policy of coverage regarding cholecystectomy

III. Responsibility:
A. Medical Directors
B. Medical Management

IV. Required Definitions
1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

V. Additional Definitions
Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

Medicaid Business Segment
Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

(i) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
(ii) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
(iii) The service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age.
DESCRIPTION:
Fully Insured Commercial, TPA (unless specifically excluded), Medicaid Business Segments

INDICATIONS:
Open or laparoscopic cholecystectomy may be considered medically necessary for the following indications when criteria are met.

1. Symptomatic gallbladder disease evidenced by
   - Documented evidence of gallstones by either:
     - Visualization on cholecystography, ultrasound, CT or MRI; or
     - Non-visualizing gallbladder with HIDA scan or double-dose cholecystography
   - Biliary obstruction (pain consistent with biliary colic); or
   - Acute inflammation of the gallbladder (cholecystitis); or
   - Acute pancreatitis not associated with ETOH (alcohol) excess

2. Symptomatic biliary disease evidenced by:
   - Acalculous cholecystitis; or
   - Biliary dyskinesia with abnormal ejection fraction defined as less than 35% on hepatobiliary scan

3. Asymptomatic biliary disease in an insured individual at high risk for cancer (e.g., calcified gallbladder wall, adenomatous gallbladder polyps, choledochal cyst, anomalous pancreobiliary junction)

4. Adenomyomatosis in individuals with atypical ultrasound findings.

5. Gallbladder polyps 5mm or greater, or symptomatic

6. Proven or suspected carcinoma of the gallbladder

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy may also be considered medically necessary for the following indications:

7. Prophylactic cholecystectomy for a remaining gallbladder after clearance of calculi

8. When used concurrently with another procedure to relieve small bowel obstruction due to gallstone ileus

Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.

CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:
The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at www.cms.gov or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.

47562 Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy
47563 Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy with cholangiography
47564 Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct
47600 Cholecystectomy
47605 Cholecystectomy with cholangiography
47610 Cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct
47612 Cholecystectomy with choledochoenterostomy
47620 Cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct; with transdudodenal sphincterotomy or sphincteroplasty, with or without cholangiography

LINE OF BUSINESS:
Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD’s and NCD’s will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.

REFERENCES:


This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

Devised: 2/14

Revised: 3/15, 2/16 (Removed Prior Auth)

Reviewed: 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20