Subtalar Arthroereisis

Medical Coverage Policy

Original Effective Date: 08/26/2010
Revised Date: 08/30/2011
Review Date: 08/30/2011
Policy Number: CLPD-0493-001

Change Summary: Updated Disclaimer, Description, Background, Medical Terms, References

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Disclaimer

State and federal law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, take precedence over clinical policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. Coverage may also differ for our Medicare and/or Medicaid members based on any applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage statements including National Coverage Determinations (NCD), Local Medical Review Policies (LMRP), and/or Local Coverage Determinations. See the CMS web site at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/. The member's health plan benefits, in effect on the date services are rendered, must be used. Clinical policy is not intended to preempt the judgment of the reviewing Medical Director or dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering the most appropriate care. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests, and procedures in a Medical Coverage Policy are for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test or procedure over another. Clinical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update this policy periodically. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any shape or form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from Humana Inc.

Description

Subtalar arthroereisis is a surgical procedure that involves placing an implant that has the appearance of a threaded cylinder into the sinus tarsi between the talus and calcaneus (heel) to stabilize the foot. It may be performed on both children and adults for congenital and adult onset flatfoot (e.g., pes planus, pes planovalgus, pes valgus) deformities.

Examples of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved implants utilized during subtalar arthroereisis include, but may not be limited to:

- Arthrex ProStop Pius™ Arthroereisis Subtalar Implant
- HyProCure™ Subtalar Implant System
- Maxwell-Brancheau Arthroereisis (MBA) Resorb Implant™
- OsteoMed Talar-Fit™ Subtalar Implant System
- SubFix Arthroereisis Implant
- Sub-Talar Lok Implant
- Subtalar Maxwell-Brancheau Arthroereisis (MBA) System™
- Trilliant Surgical Subtalar Implant
Coverage Determination

Note: Most Plans do not cover the treatment of weak, strained, flat, unstable or unbalanced feet. Please consult individual contract.

Humana members may NOT be eligible under the Plan for a subtalar arthroereisis for the treatment of any condition including, but may not be limited to, congenital and adult onset flatfoot deformities (e.g., pes planus, pes planovalgus, pes valgus) including posterior tibial tendon dysfunction. This technology is considered experimental/investigational as it is not identified as widely used and generally accepted for the proposed use as reported in nationally recognized peer-reviewed medical literature published in the English language.

Background

You can learn more about flat feet in children and adults and other disorders of the feet from the following sites:

- American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons - http://www.acfas.org

Medical Alternatives

Alternatives to subtalar arthroereisis include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Orthotics (See Orthotics Medical Coverage Policy)
- Physical therapy (See Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) Medical Coverage Policy)
- Prescription drug therapy may be appropriate for this condition.
- Short leg walking cast or brace
- Surgical procedures including, but may not be limited to, the following:

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Subtalar Arthroereisis

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- Arthrodesis (fusing one or more of the bones in the foot/ankle together)
- Osteotomy (cutting and reshaping a bone to correct alignment)
- Tendon transfer (procedure that uses fibers from another tendon to repair a damaged posterior tibial tendon)

To make the best health decision for your individual needs, consult your physician.

Provider Claims Codes

All provider claims codes surrounding this topic may not be included in the following table:

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**Medical Terms**

**Arthrodesis** – The surgical immobilization of a joint so that the bones grow solidly together.

**Calcaneus** – The largest tarsal bone that forms the heel.

**Flat Feet** – A condition in which the arch of the foot is flattened so that the entire sole rests upon the ground (also known as pes planus, or pes planovalgus).

**Implant** – To insert or graft (a tissue, organ, or inert substance) into the body.

**Orthotic** – A device or support, especially for the foot, used to relieve or correct orthopedic problems.

**Osteotomy** – The dividing of a bone, or the excision of part of it.

**Pes Valgus** – A deviation of the foot outward as the talocalcanean joint.

**Sinus Tarsi** – Small canal which runs on the outside of the foot between the ankle and heel bone.

**Talocalcanean Joint** – Located in the rearfoot between the calcaneous and the talus bones.

**Talus** – Small bone that sits between the heel bone (calcaneus) and the two bones of the lower leg (tibia and fibula).

**Tendon Transfer** – Involves the release of one end of a tendon from bone or soft tissue and reattaching it to another bone or tendon.

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