

Document ID#: 2102273
Subject: Acne Surgery
Effective Date: October 2, 2006

Clinical Documentation and Prior Authorization Required		Type of Review - Case Management	
Not Covered	√	Type of Review – Clinical Review	
		Administrative Process (Internal Use Only)	

Overview

Acne is a disease that affects the skin's oil glands. The small holes in your skin (pores) connect to oil glands under the skin. These glands make an oily substance called sebum. The pores connect to the glands by a canal called a follicle. Inside the follicles, oil carries dead skin cells to the surface of the skin. A thin hair also grows through the follicle and out to the skin. When the follicle of a skin gland clogs up, a pimple grows (NIAMS, 2006).

Policy Statement

Tufts Health Plan does not cover Acne Surgery (eg, marsupialization, opening or removal of multiple milia, comedones, cysts, pustules) (AMA, 2005)

Note: Tufts Health Plan does not cover cosmetic procedures. For the purposes of this document, cosmetic procedures include procedures for the sole purpose of changing or improving appearance. According to the Tufts Health Plan Evidence of Coverage, Tufts Health Plan may cover reconstructive procedures which include services required to relieve pain or to restore a bodily function that is impaired as a result of a congenital defect, birth abnormality, traumatic injury or covered surgical procedure

Codes

The following CPT procedure code is considered not medically necessary:

Procedure Code	Description
10040	Acne surgery (eg, marsupialization, opening or removal of multiple milia, comedones, cysts, pustules)

Applicable Products

Medical technology coverage determinations apply to all fully insured Tufts Health Plans, unless a specific limitation or exception exists.

1. For self-insured plans, consult individual plan benefit descriptions. If a discrepancy exists between a medical technology coverage determination and a self-insured member's benefit document, the provisions of the benefit document will govern.
2. Applicable state or federal mandates will take precedence over either.

Medical Policy Guidelines have been developed for determining coverage for Tufts Health Plan benefits and are published to provide easy access and a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. They are used in conjunction with a Member's benefit document and in coordination with the Member's physician(s). Tufts Health Plan makes coverage decisions on a case-by-case basis considering the individual Member's health care needs, however, when a procedure is considered to be experimental or investigative, it is not covered for all members. Tufts Health Plan revises and updates Medical Policy Guidelines annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions. This policy guideline does not apply to Tufts Health Plan Medicare Preferred or Uniformed Services Family Health Plan members. Providers in the New Hampshire service area are subject to CIGNA HealthCare's provider arrangement for the purpose of CareLink members.

References

1. American Medical Association. CPT 2006. Current Procedural Terminology. Professional Edition. Chicago. 2005.
2. National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS). What is acne? Retrieved on September 21, 2006 from <http://www.niams.nih.gov/hi/topics/acne/ffacne.htm>

Approval History

Reviewed by the Tufts Health Plan Medical Technology Assessment Committee:

- October 2, 2006

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