POLICY STATEMENT:

All services related to the diagnosis and/or treatment of hirsutism or hypertrichosis are considered not medically necessary, even if the excessive hair growth is caused by a medical disorder.

POLICY GUIDELINES:

One office visit for examination by an endocrinologist to determine if an underlying medical disorder(s) exists will be allowed in accordance with the member’s subscriber contract. Additional visits for the treatment of hirsutism or hypertrichosis are not medically necessary.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #2.01.19 regarding Microscopic Examination of the Hair.

Refer to Excellus Medical Policy #7.01.11 regarding Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures.

DESCRIPTION:

Hirsutism, or hirsutes, is the term used for increased hair growth in women. It refers to a male pattern of hair (e.g., in the moustache and beard areas) or hair that occurs more thickly than usual on the limbs. There may be hairs on the chest or an extension of pubic hair on to the abdomen and thighs. What is considered normal for a woman, and what is considered hirsute, depends on cultural factors and race. Common causes of hirsutism include increased production of androgens, genetics, and endocrine abnormalities (e.g., polycystic ovarian syndrome, Cushing’s syndrome, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, precocious puberty).

In order to treat hirsutism, determination of any underlying medical condition should be made. Self-treatment options include shaving, cutting, tweezing, waxing, bleaching and use of abrasives or chemical depilatories. Professional treatment options may include electrolysis, laser ablation, photoablation, and topical or oral medications.

Hirsutism is distinguished from hypertrichosis in that hypertrichosis is excessive hair growth over and above the normal for the age, sex and race of an individual. It can develop all over the body or can be isolated to small patches. Hypertrichosis may be congenital or acquired. The cause of hypertrichosis is unknown. Congenital hypertrichosis is believed to be a genetic disorder that is inherited or occurs as a result of spontaneous mutation. Acquired hypertrichosis sometimes occurs in people who at a later stage are diagnosed with a cancer of some form. It is not known why a cancer causes this excessive hair growth. Other possible causes are metabolic disorders, drugs or chemicals, or anorexia nervosa.

Treatment options for hypertrichosis include repeated shaving, chemical epilation, electrolysis and thermolysis, waxing, and laser hair removal.
Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member’s subscriber contract.

Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/appropriate = (NMN).

CPT: 17380 (NMN) Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes

HCPCS: No code(s)

ICD9: 704.1 Hirsutism

ICD10: L68.0-L68.9 Hypertrichosis (code range)

Q84.0-Q84.2 Congenital malformations of hair (code range)

REFERENCES:


KEY WORDS:

Acquired hypertrichosis, Congenital hypertrichosis, Epilation, Hair removal, Hirsutism.

---

**CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS**

Based upon our review, hirsutism and hypertrichosis are not addressed in National or Local CMS coverage determinations or policies.