Subject: Bioidentical Compounded Hormone Replacement Therapy*

Effective Date: March 24, 2009

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Bioidentical compounded hormone replacement therapy for menopausal symptoms is not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To ensure proper and consistent reimbursement and to limit coverage to treatment that is shown to have scientific validity.

Procedure: Requests for coverage of bioidentical compounded hormone replacement therapy for menopausal symptoms (ICD-9 627.2, 627.4, 627.8, 627.9) (ICD-10 N95.1, N95.8, N95.9 E89.41) will be denied as the superiority and safety of this treatment compared to conventional hormone replacement therapy are not supported by a satisfactory body of peer-reviewed medical literature. Bioidentical compounded hormone replacement therapy is thus deemed experimental, investigational or unproven.
References:


Pinkerton JV1, Santoro N. Compounded bioidentical hormone therapy: identifying use trends and knowledge gaps among US women. Menopause. 2015;22(9):926-36(Sep)

Martin KA, Barbieri RL. Preparations for menopausal hormone therapy. UpToDate, Version 21.0 accessed at www.uptodate.com


Holtorf K. The bioidentical hormone debate: Are bioidentical hormones (estradiol, estriol, and progesterone) safer or more efficacious than commonly used synthetic versions in hormone replacement therapy?  Postgrad Med 2009;121(1):73-85 (Jan)


Kuehn BM. FDA Warns Claims for Pharmacy-Made “Bio-identical” Hormones Are Misleading.  JAMA 2008;299(5):512 (Feb 6)


Rosenthal MS. Ethical problems with bioidentical hormone therapy. *Int J Impot Res* 2008;29(1):45-52 (Jan-Feb)


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.*