Subject: Endoscopic Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)*

Effective Date: April 24, 2007

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Endoscopic therapeutic interventions for GERD (ICD-9 530.11 or 530.81) are not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to exclude coverage of treatments not adequately supported by peer-reviewed literature.

Procedure:

1. Treatment of GERD with endoscopic devices will be denied coverage because there is not a satisfactory body of peer-reviewed literature that supports the efficacy of this approach to GERD.

2. CPT and HCPCS codes addressed by this policy include:
   
   • C9724 – Endoscopic full-thickness plication of the gastric cardia
   • 43257- EGD with application of thermal energy to muscle of the lower esophageal sphincter or gastric cardia for treatment of GERD


References
Frazzoni M, Conigliaro R, Manta R, Melotti G. Reflux parameters as modified by EsophyX or laparoscopic fundoplication in refractory GERD. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2011 May 3 [epub ahead of print].


Rothstein RI. Endoscopic therapy for gastroesophageal reflux disease: Sewing/plication techniques. UpToDate v 15.1 November 28, 2006. available at www.udtol.com/utd/content/topic.do?topicKey=eso_dis/12982&view=print accessed 03/05/07


Sgouros SN, Bergele C. Endoscopic therapy for gastroesophageal reflux disease: a systematic review. Digestion 2006;74(1):1-14 (Jan)


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