Subject: Intervertebral Disc Prostheses*

Effective Date: July 26, 2005

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Implantation of intervertebral disc prostheses is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To provide proper and consistent reimbursement; and to identify a service that is covered.

Procedure:

A. For individuals who meet InterQual® criteria of medical necessity of either spinal fusion or discectomy, implantation of a prosthetic intervertebral disc (“total disc arthroplasty” CPT 22856, 22857; 0163T) is a reimbursable alternative.

B. Revision of total disc arthroplasty (22861, 22862; 0165T) and removal of an implanted disc prosthesis (22864, 22865; 0164T) are reimbursable.

References


USFDA. FDA Approves Artificial Disc; Another Alternative to Treat Low Back Pain. FDA Talk Paper 2004;T04-45

USFDA. New Device Approval: Charite Artificial Disc – P040006. CDRH Consumer Information. October 26, 2004


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