Subject: Laser Treatment of Plaque Psoriasis*

Effective Date: January 25, 2011

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Laser treatment of plaque psoriasis is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc., when medical necessity criteria delineated below are met.

Objective: To ensure proper and consistent reimbursement for a medically necessary service.

Procedure: Excimer or pulsed dye laser treatment (CPT 96920-22) of Plaque Psoriasis (ICD 696.1) is considered medically necessary when ALL of the following are met:

1. Disease is mild to moderate and affecting 10% or less of the body surface area.

2. There has been inadequate response to topical therapy over at least three months to include at least three agents from the following groups:
   - Anthralin
   - Corticosteroids
   - Keratolytics (lactic acid, salicylic acid, urea)
   - Retinoids (tazarotene)
   - Tar preparations
   - Vitamin D derivatives (calcipotriene)

Excimer laser treatment is performed 2 to 3 times per week with a minimum 48 hour interval between sessions, with the majority of individuals obtaining a response after 10 to 13 sessions. Pulsed dye laser is performed once every three weeks with the majority of individuals obtaining a response after 4 to 6 sessions.
References


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