Subject: Wigs*

Updated: October 27, 2009

Department: Utilization Management

Policy: Wigs (considered to be a DME cranial prosthesis appliance) are reimbursable under plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to delineate criteria that provides evidence of medical necessity for a specific type of DME.

Procedure:

A. In the absence of a specific provision in the individual Summary Plan Description (SPD), wigs (HCPCS A8292) are reimbursable, up to dollar limits in individual SPDs, for hair loss caused by the following:

1. Burns (ICD-9 941)
2. Cancer chemotherapy (999.8)
3. Radiation therapy (990)
4. Congenital baldness (757.4)
5. Infections resulting in permanent hair loss that is unresponsive to treatment (704.09)
6. Lupus and other connective tissue diseases (710)
7. Traumatic injury (906)
B. Wigs are not reimbursable for any of the following, as for these conditions they are considered not medically necessary:

1. Male pattern baldness (704.00)
2. Female pattern baldness (704.00)
3. Natural aging process (704.00)
4. Damage to existing wig secondary to color dying or other wig treatment
5. Cosmetic purposes

References:

Emslie C, Whyte F, Campbell A, et al. ‘I wouldn’t have been interested in just sitting round a table talking about cancer’; exploring the experience of women with breast cancer in a group exercise trial. *Health Educ Res* 2007;22(6):827-838 (Dec)


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