Subject: Vitamin B-12 Therapy (injectable)*

Effective Date: May 21, 2007

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy:
Injectable vitamin B-12 is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc., for conditions enumerated in this Policy.

Objective:
To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to delineate criteria for coverage of a specific injectable product.

Procedure:
A. Vitamin B-12 injections (HCPCS J3420) are reimbursable for the following:

1. Vitamin B-12 deficiency (ICD-9 266.2)
2. Pernicious anemia (ICD-9 281.0)
3. Macrocytic anemia associated with diphyllobothriasis (fish tapeworm infection) (ICD-9 123.4)
4. Malabsorption syndromes that can lead to Vitamin B-12 deficiency, including but not limited to
   a. Non-tropical sprue (celiac disease) (ICD-9 579.0)
   b. Blind loop syndrome (ICD-9 579.2)
   c. Total or subtotal gastrectomy (ICD-9 V45.75)
   d. Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (ICD-9 V45.86)
   e. Deficiency of intrinsic factor, including but not limited to that associated with gastric achlorhydria (ICD-9 281.0 or 280.9)
5. Methylmalonic aciduria (ICD-9 270.7)
6. Homocystinuria (ICD-9 270.4)
7. Strict vegetarianism

B. Injections with Vitamin B-12 are reimbursable daily for the first
30 days of treatment for acute neurologic manifestations of pernicious anemia; and no more frequently than once monthly for other indications.

C. Injectable Vitamin B-12 is not reimbursable for chronic fatigue syndrome (ICD-9 780.71), as a “tonic” for patients complaining of tiredness or easy fatigue, multiple sclerosis and other neuropathies, and other diseases or conditions not listed under “A” above. For these conditions there is no evidence of their medical necessity in peer-reviewed literature.

References


-----Cyanocobalamin: Drug Information. UpToDate 2006. available at <http://www.utdol.com/utd/content/topic.do?dopicKey=drug_1_k/66951&view=print> accessed 04/13/07


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