



UM-CDG-085 Implantable Infusion Pump

Approved By:
Director, Health Services

Effective Date:
10/20/2025

This Policy applies to all SECUR affiliates, associates, and subsidiaries.

Approved by Courtney Gonzales, Director of Health Services on behalf of the Utilization Management Committee.

PURPOSE

This coverage determination guideline serves to address implantable infusion pumps. The implantable pump is a sealed, self-powered system, which is inserted under the skin by a physician. It provides a continuous controlled infusion of a drug to a select body site and can be refilled by percutaneous injection. Two separate ports are available: 1 for bolus injections and 1 for continuous infusion. Both may be utilized for blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) withdrawals. An implantable infusion pump is utilized to administer many types of medications through the intra-arterial, intrathecal or epidural route.

For SECUR Health Plan members, National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) will be applied to requests when applicable. SECUR Health Plan Coverage Determination Guidelines (CDG) will be utilized in the absence of an appropriate NCD and/or LCD.

DEFINITIONS

None

POLICY

SECUR Health Plan will consider implantable infusion pumps, and associated services, medically reasonable and necessary for the conditions listed in the CMS Internet-Only Manual, Pub 100-03, Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Part 4, §280.14 Infusion Pumps.

For the indication of opioid drugs used for the treatment of chronic intractable pain, it is useful to distinguish between pain caused by a malignancy from which the patient is not expected to recover from those non-malignant conditions that are longer term in nature. For terminal malignant conditions, the progression from a non-invasive pain control modality to a more invasive modality, such as use of an implanted pump, may occur more rapidly with less emphasis on behavioral approaches to pain control.

Ziconotide intrathecal infusion documentation must meet the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved indication that the patient is intolerant of or refractory to other treatment, such as systemic analgesics, adjunctive therapies or intrathecal therapy morphine in the treatment of severe, chronic pain.

The implantation of an infusion pump is contraindicated in the following members:

- Those with a known allergy or hypersensitivity to the drug being used (e.g., oral baclofen and morphine)

- Those who have an infection
- Those whose body size is insufficient to support the weight and bulk of the device

In those members with other implanted programmable devices, since crosstalk between devices may inadvertently change the prescription, it is recommended that all devices be checked for possible crosstalk at the time of implantation of the infusion pump, and that appropriate surveillance for such interactions be continued.

If the indication for the implantable infusion pump is for reasons other than chemotherapy for liver cancer (primary hepatocellular carcinoma or Duke's Class D colorectal cancer in whom the metastases are limited to the liver), antispasmodic drugs for severe spasticity, or opioid drugs for treatment of chronic intractable pain, or the diagnosis is not indicated in the applicable covered indication, documentation supporting medical necessity for the pump and/or medication must be submitted with the redetermination request.

References:

1. Brown, DL. *Regional Anesthesia & Analgesia*. 3rd Ed. Philadelphia, PA: W.B. Saunders; 1996.
2. *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary*. 28th Ed. Philadelphia, PA: W.B. Saunders; 1994.
3. *Drug Facts and Comparisons*[®]. St. Louis, MO; 2016.
4. *Nursing 2008 Drug Handbook*. 28th Ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2008.
5. Salerno E, Willens J. *Pain Management Handbook: An interdisciplinary approach*. St. Louis, MO; 1996.
6. Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L33461, Implantable Infusion Pump, https://localcoverage.cms.gov/mcd_archive/view/lcd.aspx?lcdInfo=33461:59