



**EXCIMER LASER THERAPY  
FOR SKIN CONDITIONS  
HS-173**



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*Harmony Behavioral Health of Florida, Inc.*

*Harmony Health Plan of Illinois, Inc.*

*HealthEase of Florida, Inc.*

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**Excimer Laser Therapy for  
Skin Conditions**

**Policy Number: HS-173**

**Original Effective Date: 6/17/2010**

**Revised Date(s): 8/2/2011**

**DISCLAIMER**

The Clinical Coverage Guideline is intended to supplement certain standard WellCare benefit plans. The terms of a member's particular Benefit Plan, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, etc., may differ significantly from this Coverage Position. For example, a member's benefit plan may contain specific exclusions related to the topic addressed in this Clinical Coverage Guideline. When a conflict exists between the two documents, the Member's Benefit Plan always supersedes the information contained in the Clinical Coverage Guideline. Additionally, Clinical Coverage Guidelines relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans and are NOT recommendations for treatment, nor should they be used as treatment guidelines. The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

**APPLICATION STATEMENT**

The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

## **BACKGROUND**

Phototherapy with the 308-nanometer wavelength xenon chloride excimer laser produces high ultraviolet B energy that is delivered precisely to vitiligo patches (depigmented areas), with the goal of achieving more rapid repigmentation than is achieved with standard phototherapy. The excimer laser is also efficacious for treatment of plaque psoriasis. While there are different regimens, excimer laser therapy is generally given twice weekly, with or without topical drugs. The dermatologist treats outpatients for up to 6 months. Each treatment takes only a few minutes. There are several manufacturers of excimer lasers, including some specifically approved for the treatment of vitiligo by the Food and Drug Administration. Excimer laser therapy is intended for any member with vitiligo, especially those with moderate-to-severe disease, although it appears to be most efficacious on the face and neck than on other areas of the body.

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

The use of excimer laser therapy for the treatment of psoriasis **is considered medically necessary** when BOTH of the following criteria are met:

- The psoriasis is limited to less than or equal to 10% of the member's body surface area; **AND**,
- The member has failed a previous two-month long trial of conservative therapy with topical agents, with or without standard non-laser ultraviolet light therapy

The use of excimer laser therapy for the treatment of vitiligo **is considered medically necessary** when:

- The member has failed a previous two-month long trial of conservative therapy with topical agents, with or without standard non-laser ultraviolet light therapy.

The use of the excimer laser therapy **is considered NOT medically necessary** for all other conditions not listed above.

## **CODING**

### **CPT © Codes**

- 96920** Laser treatment for inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis); total area less than 250 sq cm  
**96921** Laser treatment for inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis); 250 sq cm to 500 sq cm  
**96922** Laser treatment for inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis); over 500 sq cm

### **ICD-9-CM Diagnosis codes covered when the criteria above has been met.**

- 103.2** Vitiligo; Pinta, late lesions  
**696.1** Other Psoriasis, except arthropathic  
**709.01** Vitiligo

\*Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2010 American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.®©

## **REFERENCES**

### **Peer Reviewed**

1. Hayes Brief. Excimer Laser Therapy (ELT) for the Vitiligo. November 24, 2008.

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2. Hayes Directory. Laser Therapy for Psoriasis. June 24, 2003. Archived.
  3. Hayes Update Search. Laser Therapy for Psoriasis. March 15, 2008.
  4. Whitton ME, Ashcroft DM, Barrett C W, Gonzalez U. Interventions for vitiligo. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2006, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD003263.

**Government Agencies, Professional and Medical Organizations**

N/A

**HISTORY AND REVISIONS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
12/1/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New template design approved by MPC.</li></ul>
8/2/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved by MPC. No changes.</li></ul>