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.
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. Note: The lines of business (LOB) are subject to change without notice; consult www.wellcare.com/Providers/CCGs for list of current LOBs.

BACKGROUND

Implantable testosterone pellets may be indicated as second-line testosterone replacement therapy for males. Testosterone implants (Testopel™) are commercially available in the United States. Androgens are primarily indicated in males as replacement therapy when congenital or acquired endogenous androgen absence or deficiency is associated with primary or secondary hypogonadism. Primary hypogonadism includes conditions such as: testicular failure due to cryptorchidism, bilateral torsion, orchitis, or vanishing testis syndrome; inborn errors in testosterone biosynthesis; or bilateral orchidectomy. Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (secondary hypogonadism conditions include gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) deficiency or pituitary-hypothalamic injury as a result of surgery, tumors, trauma, or radiation, and are the most common forms of hypogonadism seen in older adults.

If testosterone implants are to be used for treatment of androgen deficiency due to primary or secondary hypogonadism, the usual adult dosage is 150 to 450 mg subcutaneously every three to four months, or, in some cases, as long as six months. Dosage adjustment is needed to accommodate individual clinical requirements for such life changes as induction of puberty, development of secondary sexual characteristics, impotence due to testicular failure, or infertility due to oligospermia.

For treatment of delayed male puberty, a 6-month-or-shorter course of androgen is indicated for induction of puberty in patients with familial delayed puberty, a condition characterized by spontaneous, nonpathologic, late-onset puberty, if the patient does not respond to psychological treatment. If subcutaneous testosterone implants are to be used, the usual dosage is to be determined by the physician. Low doses are used initially and increased gradually as puberty progresses.

POSITION STATEMENT

Applicable To:
✔ Medicaid – All Markets
✔ Medicare – All Markets

Implantable testosterone pellets (Testopel™) are considered medically necessary for EITHER of the following:

- As second line testosterone replacement therapy in males with congenital or acquired endogenous androgen absence or deficiency associated with 257.2 primary or secondary hypogonadism when neither topical, intra-muscular or buccal testosterone replacement therapy is effective or appropriate; OR,
- For third or fourth line treatment of delayed male puberty following IM injections, Testosterone gel and or oral preparations.

NOTE: A bone age x-ray should be conducted for members under age 25 who are taking the medication to ensure that excess bone maturation does not occur while the member being treated.

In addition, the following criteria for Medicare members applies:

- A statement indicating diagnosis of male hypogonadism; AND
- Pretreatment testosterone level below normal physiological value of 300 ng/dl or below normal reference level (provided by the laboratory).
In addition, the following criteria for Medicaid members applies:

- A statement indicating diagnosis of male hypogonadism; AND
- Laboratory results indicating:
  - At least one low total testosterone level (below 300 ng/dl or the normal range for the laboratory); AND
  - ALT and AST – within normal limits (AST – 5-40 IU/L and/or ALT 7-56 IU/L), tested within the last 3 to 6 months.
- Baseline PSA and hematocrit levels

Preferred alternatives for Testopel™ are:

- Testim Gel for external use
- Testosterone cypionate or Testosterone enanthate for injection

**CODING**

**Covered CPT® Code**

11980 Subcutaneous hormone pellet implantation (implantation of testosterone pellets beneath the skin)

**Covered ICD-9-CM Procedure Code**

99.24 Injection of other hormone

**Covered HCPCS Level II® Code**

S0189* Testosterone pellet, 75 mg

* Note: S-Codes are NON COVERED FOR MEDICARE – Refer to HCPCS Level II Temporary National Codes

For Medicare, bill the appropriate CPT code listed above.

**Covered ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes**

257.2 Other testicular hypofunction; i.e., Primary or Secondary Hypogonadism

259.0 Delay in sexual development and puberty, not elsewhere classified

**Covered ICD-10 CM Diagnosis Codes**

E29.1 Testicular hypofunction

E30.0 Delayed puberty; i.e. delayed sexual development


**REFERENCES**


**MEDICAL POLICY COMMITTEE HISTORY AND REVISIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/6/2015</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. Clarifying items to Position Statement re: when used as a second line therapy as well as criteria for baseline PSA and hematocrit levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5/2015, 2/6/2014</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/2013</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. Expanded medical necessity criteria and drug alternatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3/2012, 12/1/2011</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7/2011</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. New.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>