



Rule Category:
Medical

Ref: No:
2013-MN-0015

Version Control:
Version No.3.0

Effective Date:
24-05-2017

Revision Date:
01-05-2018



Varicocele Management

Adjudication Guideline

Abstract

For Members

A varicocele is a collection of enlarged (dilated) veins (blood vessels) in the scrotum. It occurs next to and above one testis or both of the testes (testicles).

Varicoceles are usually painless and usually cause no symptoms and usually require no treatment. A small number of affected men notice a dragging feeling or slight discomfort from their varicocele. In themselves they are usually harmless, but sometimes may cause infertility in men and shrinkage of testis in teenagers.

Treatment may be advised if you have persistent discomfort or if a testis is not growing properly in a teenager with a varicocele.

Daman covers the treatment of varicocele if medically necessary, for all Health Insurance Plans administered by Daman, as per the policy terms and conditions, except for Visitor's Plan.

For Medical Professionals

Varicocele can be defined as an abnormal tortuosity and dilation of the veins of the pampiniform plexus (PP) present in scrotum, which drain the testicles.

Mandatory investigations required for the surgical management of varicocele as documentation at the time of acquiring authorization are ultrasound scrotum and semen analysis report to verify whether it is associated with infertility or not.

Approved by:
Daman

Responsible:
Medical Standards & Research

Related Adjudication Guidelines:

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Scope

This adjudication guideline highlights the recommended surgical management of Varicocele for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

Adjudication Policy

Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

- Varicocele may be classified as "clinical" or "subclinical." Varicocele surgery is not recommended for subclinical and Grade I Varicocele, which should be managed medically and/or by observation.
- Whenever varicocele management is related to Infertility, coverage of services for Varicocele will be restricted to married members with Infertility benefit.
- Whenever varicocele management is related to significant pain/ heaviness/ discomfort or reduced testicular size, coverage of services for Varicocele will be covered for all plans (except Visitor's plan).
- Surgical management of varicocele can be done via open surgery, laparoscopic surgery or embolization.
- Daman covers medically necessary surgical management of Varicocele if furnished with the documentation below:
 - Scrotal ultrasound with colour flow Doppler imaging.
 - Marital status and sperm analysis for adult members.
 - Sperm analysis is not required for pre-adolescent/ adolescent members.
- Coverage of varicocele management, as per the Health insurance Plans administered by Daman:

Plan	Varicocele	
	Related to Infertility	Not Related to Infertility
Thiqa	Covered 100 %	
Aounak & Reaya	Covered 100 %	
Premier	Covered 100 %	
Visitor's Plan	Not Covered ,General Exclusion of the policy	
All Other Plans	Not Covered ,General Exclusion of the policy	Covered 100 %

Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

Non-Coverage

Varicocele surgery for Varicocele related to Infertility is not covered for unmarried members or plans without Infertility benefit.

Management of Varicocele is not covered for Visitor's Plan.

Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply HAAD payment rules and regulations, as well as relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

Adjudication Examples

- Example 1

Question: A 25 year old male, having Basic card, visiting the clinic for severe pain and heaviness in scrotum. Doctor examines/investigates the patient and finds a varicocele with normal sperm count and motility and claims to Daman for excision of varicocele. Will this claim be paid?

Answer: Yes, the claim is payable if documented properly.

- Example 2

Question: A 30 year old male, having Visitor's Plan, visits a doctor for heavy feeling in scrotum. Doctor makes the diagnosis of scrotal varices and claims to Daman for the excision of varicocele. Will this claim be paid?

Answer: No, the claim will be rejected.

Denial codes

Code description
Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities
Service(s) is (are) not covered
Prior approval is required and was not obtained
Claim information is inconsistent with pre-certified/ authorized services

Appendices

A. References

- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/evaluation-of-nonacute-scrotal-pathology-in-adult-men?source=search_result&search=VARICOCELE&selectedTitle=1~13#H4
- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/causes-of-painless-scrotal-swelling-in-children-and-adolescents?source=search_result&search=nonacute%20scrotal%20pathology&selectedTitle=6~150#H7
- <http://bestpractice.bmj.com/best-practice/monograph/1103/diagnosis/step-by-step.html>
- <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/438591-overview>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2664231/>
- <http://www.auanet.org/common/pdf/education/clinical-guidance/Varicocele-Archive.pdf>
- https://www.asrm.org/uploadedFiles/ASRM_Content/News_and_Publications/Practice_Guidelines/Joint_Reports/Report_on_varicocele.pdf
- http://uroweb.org/guideline/paediatric-urology/#3_7
- http://uroweb.org/guideline/male-infertility/#5_4
- [http://www.jurology.com/article/S0022-5347\(15\)04290-1/pdf](http://www.jurology.com/article/S0022-5347(15)04290-1/pdf)

B. Revision History

Date	Change(s)
01/07/2013	V 1.0
24/05/2017	V 3.0 General content update