MEDICAL POLICY – 2.02.513
Endovascular Repair – Stent for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Ref. Policy: MP-103

Select a hyperlink below to be directed to that section.

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Introduction

The aorta is the main blood vessel in the center of the body that runs from the heart up into the chest and down into the abdomen. An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is caused by an enlarged area toward the bottom of the aorta that fills with blood and bulges. Over time, the pressure on this bulge can build up and rupture, causing pain, massive internal bleeding, and death. Endovascular aneurysm repair is a treatment to repair ruptured or unruptured AAAs. A long, thin tube called a catheter is inserted into an artery in the thigh and a woven fabric tube covered with metal support (stent graft) is placed in the abdominal aorta. This policy describes when endovascular aneurysm repair with a stent graft may be considered medically necessary.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.
Endovascular repair/stent for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) and/or its major branches may be considered medically necessary for patients with aneurysms having morphology suitable to repair when any of the following indications are met:

- Aneurysmal dilatation > 5 cm and ≥ twice the diameter of the non-dilated proximal segment; or
- Any documented aneurysmal dilatation that has expanded in size by 0.5 cm or more in 6 months; or
- Any symptomatic or ruptured aneurysm. The primary symptoms are tenderness on palpation and/or pain that may occur in the back, flank, groin, or abdomen. Other symptoms are related to compression of nearby structures such as veins or ureters; or
- Any AAA with an aneurysmal iliac component

**Note:** The above measurements should be obtained by computed tomography (CT) and represent the minor axis on the axial CT or any measurement perpendicular to the line of flow on a 3D reconstruction.

See Related Information below for Limitations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>34707</td>
<td>Evasc rpr ilio-iliac ndgft</td>
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<td>34708</td>
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<td>34808</td>
<td>Endovascular placement of iliac artery occlusion device</td>
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<td>34812</td>
<td>Open femoral artery exposure for delivery of endovascular prosthesis, by groin incision, unilateral</td>
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<td>34813</td>
<td>Placement of femoral-femoral prosthetic graft during endovascular aortic aneurysm repair</td>
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<td>34820</td>
<td>Open iliac artery exposure for delivery of endovascular prosthesis or iliac occlusion during endovascular therapy, by abdominal or retroperitoneal incision, unilateral</td>
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<td>34833</td>
<td>Open iliac exposure with creation of conduit for delivery of aortic or iliac endovascular prosthesis by arm incision, unilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td>34834</td>
<td>Open brachial artery exposure to assist in the deployment of aortic or iliac endovascular prosthesis by arm incision, unilateral</td>
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<td>34841</td>
<td>Endovascular repair of visceral aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption) by deployment of a fenestrated visceral aortic endograft and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including one visceral artery endoprosthesis (superior mesenteric, celiac or renal artery)</td>
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<td>34842</td>
<td>Endovascular repair of visceral aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption) by deployment of a fenestrated visceral aortic endograft and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including two visceral artery endoprostheses (superior mesenteric, celiac and/or renal artery[s])</td>
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<td>34843</td>
<td>Endovascular repair of visceral aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption) by deployment of a fenestrated visceral aortic endograft and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including two visceral artery endoprostheses (superior mesenteric, celiac and/or renal artery[s])</td>
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<td>interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including three visceral artery endoprostheses (superior mesenteric, celiac and/or renal artery[s])</td>
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<td>34844</td>
<td>Endovascular repair of visceral aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption) by deployment of a fenestrated visceral aortic endograft and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including four or more visceral artery endoprostheses (superior mesenteric, celiac and/or renal artery[s])</td>
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<td>34845</td>
<td>Endovascular repair of visceral aorta and infrarenal abdominal aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption) with a fenestrated visceral aortic endograft and concomitant unibody or modular infrarenal aortic endograft and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including one visceral artery endoprosthesis (superior mesenteric, celiac, or renal artery)</td>
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<td>Endovascular repair of visceral aorta and infrarenal abdominal aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption) with a fenestrated visceral aortic endograft and concomitant unibody or modular infrarenal aortic endograft and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation, including target zone angioplasty, when performed; including two visceral artery endoprostheses (superior mesenteric, celiac, and/or renal artery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>75952</td>
<td>Endovascular repair of infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm or dissection; radiological supervision and interpretation</td>
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<td>75953</td>
<td>Placement of proximal or distal extension prosthesis for endovascular repair of infrarenal aortic or iliac artery aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, or dissection, radiological supervision and interpretation</td>
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Related Information

Limitations

- Endovascular repair/stent for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) and/or its major branches must be performed by a physician with credentialed experience in this technology
- The endovascular graft must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of the aneurysm

Evidence Review

Background

According to the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), the occurrence of abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAAs) has increased three-fold in the past 30 years and now affects as many as 8% of the population over the age of 65. An AAA is caused by an enlarged area in the lower part of the aorta, the major blood vessel that supplies blood from the heart to the rest of the body. An aneurysm larger than 5 centimeters is usually considered for treatment to prevent rupture. Risk factors related to rupture include the size of the AAA diameter, the rate at which it has expanded, the patient age and smoking history. SIR reports that once an AAA has ruptured, the survival chances are low, resulting in death for 80-90% of all ruptured AAA patients.

Endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) is used as an alternative to open surgery for the repair of ruptured and unruptured AAAs. The repair involves the placement of an endovascular graft within the abdominal aorta to reduce the pressure on the region. The placement is accomplished via a delivery system inserted through the femoral arteries to the aneurysms under fluoroscopic guidance. Once the graft is fixed to the aorta, the delivery system is then removed.

References


### History

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/16/19</td>
<td>New policy, approved August 13, 2019, effective January 1, 2020. Endovascular repair/stent for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) and/or its major branches may be considered medically necessary for patients with aneurysms having morphology suitable to repair when the indications meet this policy.</td>
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</table>

**Disclaimer:** This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2019 Premera All Rights Reserved.

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  - Information written in other languages

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PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5952. TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

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Avi sila a gen Enfòmasyon Enpòtan ladin. Avi sila a kapab genyen enfòmasyon enpòtan konsènplan aplikasyon w lan oswa konsènlan kouvèti asirans lan atravè Premera Blue Cross. Kapab genyen dat ki enpòtan nan avi sila a. Ou ka gen pou prin kék akson avan sèten dat limit pou ka kenbe kouvèti asirans sante w la oswa pou yo ka ede w avek depans yo. Se dwa w pou resewwa enfòmasyon sa a ak asistans nan lang ou pale a, san ou pa gen pou peye pou sa. Rate nan 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

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Tsaab ntawv tshaj xo no muaj cov ntshiab lus tseem ceeb. Tej zaum tsab ntawv tshaj xo no muaj cov ntshiab lus tseem ceeb bokj kajt dawt hov kev pab los yoj koy kov kev pab cuam los ntawv Premera Blue Cross. Tej zaum muaj cov hnuv tseem ceeb cuam sau rau hauv daim ntawv no. Tej zaum kajt koy juv yau uaa quee yam uaa peb kom kajt uas tsip dhau cov cajj nyong uas teev teev rau hauv daim ntawv no mas kajt thjaj yauv tuai basis kev pab cuam kho mob yos los yoj kev pab tjem tej nji kho mob ntawv. Kajt muaj cai kom lawv muab cov ntshiab lus no uas tuab muab sau kajt hom lus pub dawb rau kajt. Hu rau 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

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Daytoy a Pakdaar ket naglaon iti Napateg nga Impormasion. Daytoy a pakdaar mabalini nga adda ket naglaon iti napateg nga impormasion maipanggepi a aplikasyonyo wenno coverage babaen ti Premera Blue Cross. Daytoy ket mabalini dagiti importante a pelta iti daytoy a pakdaar. Mabalini nga adda rumbeng nga aramideny nga adda saktay dagiti particular a naituding nga adda aldaw tapno mapagatinledyo ti coverage ti salun-atyo wenno tulong kadagiti gastos. Adda karbangenyoo a mangala iti daytoy nga impormasion ken tulong ti bukoddy a pagasao nga awan ti bayadanyo. Tumawig ti numero nga 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

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