Sentara® Health Plans

Commercial

Embolization Treatments, Surgical 235

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Effective Date	8/1/2026
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Coverage Policy	Surgical 235
Version	6

Member-specific benefits take precedence over medical policy and benefits may vary across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for details *.

Description of Item or Service:

Genicular artery embolization (GAE) is a minimally invasive procedure by reducing the blood flow and inflammation to the areas around the knee. Capsular Plication is an arthroscopic procedure to provide a suture and retensioning the ligaments around the joint for greater stability.

Hemorrhoid Artery Embolization (HAE) is a minimally invasive procedure, performed by an interventional radiologist, to treat hemorrhoids without surgery. HAE uses the femoral or radial artery approach to access and block the arteries blood supply to the hemorrhoids.

Ovarian Vein Embolization is a procedure used to help resolve a painful condition called pelvic congestion syndrome.

Plantar Fasciitis Embolization (PFE) is a minimally invasive procedure which uses a catheter into the blood vessels to inject microparticles to block blood flow to an area and reducing pain.

Varicocele embolization is a procedure used to block blood flow in a painful enlarged vein in a man's scrotum.

Transarterial Embolization therapies include, Transarterial Chemo Embolization (TACE), Transarterial Embolization (TAE) and Drug-Eluting Beads Transarterial Chemotherapy Embolization (DEB-TACE). These involve the insertion of a catheter directly in the artery and use of agents to inhibit and block the blood flow supplying the tumor. This can be done with or without, chemotherapy, drug-eluting beads or RE microspheres.

Shoulder Adhesive Capsulitis Embolization - targets the underlying inflammatory process through reduction of neo-angiogenesis and nerve stimulation, TAE aims to achieve meaningful pain relief

Venous leak embolization to address erectile dysfunction (ED) is a minimally invasive, image-guided procedure stemming from a venous leak, a condition where blood escapes the penis prematurely, hindering the ability to maintain a firm erection.

Clinical Indications and Criteria:

Embolization is medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:

- **Genicular artery embolization** (GAE) is medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:
  - Knee hemarthrosis following total knee arthroplasty for **ALL** of the following:
    - Failed Conservative Therapy and **1 or more** of the following:
      - Ice
      - Immobilization
      - Compression
      - Saline lavage
      - Corticosteroid instillation
      - Selective COX-2 inhibitors
    - Demonstrated synovial hyper-vascularity on angiography
  - Reduce tumor vascularity about the knee preoperatively in preparation for tumor resection about the knee
  - Reduce tumor bulk in inoperable cases of tumors around the knee
- **Ovarian Vein Embolization** is considered medically necessary for pelvic congestion syndrome (PCS) with **ALL** of the following:
  - Individual with a definitive diagnostic venography, computerized tomography (CT) scan, or Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
  - Individual with failed trial of appropriate pharmacotherapy
- **Varicocele Embolization** (balloon or metallic coil) for the treatment a varicocele in a male with **1 or more** of the following:
  - Individual with recurrence of varicoceles post surgical (ligation)
  - Individual is an adolescent with grade 2 or 3 varicocele related to ipsilateral testicular growth restriction
  - Individual with scrotal pain associated with varicoceles
  - Individual with infertility problems with ALL of the following:
    - Lower sperm concentration
    - Decreased sperm motility
- **Transarterial Embolization Direct Therapies (TAE, TACE and DEB-TACE)** are considered medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following indications:
  - Neuroendocrine tumors for individuals with **1 more of the following**:
    - Neuroendocrine tumors (carcinoid tumors, pancreatic tumors) with hepatic metastases when systemic therapy has failed to control symptoms such as carcinoid syndrome (debilitating flushing, wheezing, and diarrhea)
    - Symptoms from non-carcinoid neuroendocrine tumors with hepatic metastases (hypoglycemia, severe diabetes, Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome)
    - Symptoms due to hepatic tumor bulk (pain)
  - Hepatocellular Carcinoma or Bridge to Liver Transplantation for individuals for **1 more of the following:**
    - As primary treatment for surgically unresectable primary hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
    - As a palliative treatment for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma when there are significant symptoms (e.g., pain) related to tumor bulk
    - As a bridge to liver transplantation
  - Metastatic Disease of the Liver for individuals for **1 more of the following**:
    - Palliative treatment for symptoms from metastatic disease of the liver related to tumor bulk (pain)
    - Treatment for liver-only metastasis from uveal melanoma
- **Embolization for shoulder joint pathology** is considered medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:
  - Individuals with hemarthrosis
  - Individuals with adhesive capsulitis (frozen shoulder) with **ALL** of the following:
    - Physical exam consistent with adhesive capsulitis
    - Plain X-ray excludes other diagnosis
    - Failure of ≥3 months of conservative therapy as evidence by **1 or more** of the following:
      - topical or oral anti-inflammatory medications
      - steroid injection
      - physical therapy/ home exercise program

Genicular Artery embolization (GAE) is considered **not medically necessary** for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria, to include but not limited to:

- for the treatment of osteoarthritis-related knee pain

Hemorrhoid Artery Embolization (HAE): Current role remains uncertain, based on review of existing evidence, there are currently no clinical indications for this technology. Therefore, not medically necessary for any clinical indications.

Ovarian Vein Embolization is considered not medically necessary for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

Plantar Fasciitis Embolization (PFE): Current role remains uncertain, based on review of existing evidence, there are currently no clinical indications for this technology. Therefore, not medically necessary for any clinical indications.

Varicocele Embolization is considered not medically necessary for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

Transarterial Embolization Direct Therapies including Transarterial Chemo Embolization (TACE), Transarterial Embolization (TAE) and Drug-Eluting Beads Transarterial Chemotherapy Embolization (DEB-TACE) are considered **not medically necessary** for the following contraindications:

- Ascites
- Aspartate aminotransferase >100 unit/L
- Cardiac or renal insufficiency
- For individuals with any of the following conditions:
    - Biliary obstruction
    - Breast cancer
    - Cervical cancer
    - Colon cancer
    - Down staging therapy to reduce tumor burden for liver cancer
    - Encephalopathy
    - Liver metastases from other non-neuroendocrine primaries (e.g., colon cancer, melanoma, or unknown primaries)
    - Palliative treatment of either primary or secondary malignant disease of the liver that is not associated with a specific liver-related symptom
    - Portal vein thrombosis
    - Rhabdomyosarcoma
    - Unknown primary tumors
- Lactate dehydrogenase >425 unit/L
- Leiomyosarcoma
- Recent variceal bleed
- Serum bilirubin >3 mg/dL
- Significant thrombocytopenia
- Tumor burden involving >50 percent of the liver

There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of Transarterial Chemo Embolization (TACE), Transarterial Embolization (TAE) and Drug-Eluting Beads Transarterial Chemotherapy Embolization (DEB-TACE) for uses other than those listed in the clinical indications for procedure section.

Embolization for shoulder joint pathology is considered not medically necessary for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

Venous leak embolization to address erectile dysfunction (ED) is considered not medically necessary due to lack of proven clinical utility. Based upon review of existing evidence there are currently no clinical indications for this technology.

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2026: April – Implementation date of August 1, 2026. Date of Next Full Annual Review – Add criteria for Shoulder Embolization. Added venous leak embolization to address erectile dysfunction (ED) as not medically necessary. Updated coding.
- 2026: Feb – Implementation date of June 1, 2026. Add criteria for Shoulder Embolization.
- 2026: Jan – Merge Medical 139

Reviewed Dates:

Origination Date: 2025: Jan – Combined New Tech - Plantar Fasciitis Embolization (PFE), Medical 342 - Genicular Artery Embolization (GAE), Surgical 202 - Ovarian Vein Embolization, and Surgical 209 -Varicocele Embolization

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
37241	Vascular embolization or occlusion, inclusive of all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural roadmapping, and imaging guidance necessary to complete the intervention; venous, other than hemorrhage (eg, congenital or acquired venous malformations, venous and capillary hemangiomas, varices, varicoceles)
37242	Vascular embolization or occlusion, inclusive of all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural roadmapping, and imaging guidance necessary to complete the intervention; arterial, other than hemorrhage or tumor (eg, congenital or acquired arterial malformations, arteriovenous malformations, arteriovenous fistulas, aneurysms
37244	Vascular embolization or occlusion, inclusive of all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural roadmapping, and imaging guidance necessary to complete the intervention; for arterial or venous hemorrhage or lymphatic extravasation
75894	Transcatheter therapy, embolization, any method, radiological supervision and interpretation

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
28899	unlisted procedure, foot or toes
36247	Selective catheter placement, arterial system; initial third order or more selective abdominal, pelvic, or lower extremity artery branch, within a vascular family
36248	Selective catheter placement, arterial system; additional second order, third order, and beyond, abdominal, pelvic, or lower extremity artery branch, within a vascular family (List in addition to code for initial second or third order vessel as appropriate)

The preceding codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this policy are included above for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

Policy Approach and Special Notes: *

- Coverage
  - See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.
- Application to products
  - Policy is applicable to Sentara Health Plan Commercial products.
- Authorization requirements
  - Pre-certification by the Plan is required.
- Special Notes:
  - Commercial
    - Medical policies can be highly technical and complex and are provided here for informational purposes. These medical policies are intended for use by health care professionals. The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Sentara Health Plan members should discuss the information in the medical policies with their treating health care professionals. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and these medical policies are subject to change without notice, although Sentara Health Plan will notify providers as required in advance of changes that could have a negative impact on benefits.
    - Services mean both medical and behavioral health (mental health) services and supplies unless We specifically tell You otherwise. We do not cover any services that are not listed in the Covered Services section unless required to be covered under state or federal laws and regulations. We do not cover any services that are not Medically Necessary. We sometimes give examples of specific services that are not covered but that does not mean that other similar services are covered. Some services are covered only if We authorize them. When We say You or Your We mean You and any of Your family members covered under the Plan. Call Member Services if You have questions.

References:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; UpToDate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

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Keywords:

Endometrial Ablation, Surgical 15, uterine bleeding, Menorrhagia, Hormonal therapy, Dilation and curettage, D&C, Pap smear, gynecologic examination, cervical disease, endometrial resection, electrosurgical ablation, thermoablation, hydrothermal endometrial ablation (HTEA), Thermal balloon endometrial ablation (TBEA), Microwave Endometrial Ablation (MEA), cryoablation, electrosurgical ablation, laser