

## Bulking Agents for Vocal Cord Insufficiency

### Table of Content

[Purpose](#)  
[Description & Definitions](#)  
[Criteria](#)  
[Coding](#)  
[Document History](#)  
[References](#)  
[Special Notes](#)  
[Keywords](#)

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[Coverage Policy](#) Medical 153  
[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\*.**

### Purpose:

This policy addresses the medical necessity of Bulking Agents for Vocal Cord Insufficiency.

### Description & Definitions:

Bulking agents are substances in the form of a gel like product used to fill in gaps for indications of vocal cord paralysis, weak vocal cords or other vocal insufficiencies.

Bulking agents for Vocal cord insufficiency include the harvesting and injection of autologous fat.

Bulking agents for Unilateral vocal cord paralysis (UVCP) include the use of FDA approve vocal cord implants.

Types of bulking agents may include, but are not limited to:

- Calcium hydroxylapatite (e.g., Radiesse™ Voice, Prolaryn™ Plus)
- Collagen
- Cymetra (micronized AlloDerm tissue)
- Restylane (cross-linked hyaluronic acid)
- Prolaryn and Prolaryn Plus (formerly the Radiesse Laryngeal Implant).

### Criteria:

Bulking Agents for Vocal Cord Insufficiency are considered medically necessary for individuals with **1 or more** of the following:

- Vocal cord insufficiency
- Glottis insufficiency resulting from 1 of the following:
  - Unilateral vocal cord paralysis (UVCP)
  - Vocal fold paralysis
  - Vocal fold paresis
  - Vocal fold atrophy

- Vocal fold scar
- Vocal fold sulcus vocalis
- Vocal fold bowing
- Presbylaryngis
- Abductor muscle spasmodic dysphonia
- Parkinson's disease

Bulking Agents for Vocal Cord Insufficiency is considered **not medically necessary** for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

### Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
31513	Laryngoscopy, indirect; with vocal cord injection
31570	Laryngoscopy, direct, with injection into vocal cord(s), therapeutic
31571	Laryngoscopy, direct, with injection into vocal cord(s), therapeutic; with operating microscope or telescope
31574	Laryngoscopy, flexible; with injection(s) for augmentation (eg, percutaneous, transoral), unilateral
L8607	Injectable bulking agent for vocal cord medialization, 0.1 ml, includes shipping and necessary supplies
Q2026	Injection, Radiesse, 0.1 ml
Q4112	Cymetra, injectable, 1 cc

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
	None

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - approved only products only.

### Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2021: December
- 2019: November
- 2016: March
- 2014: February, July
- 2013: July
- 2011: September

Reviewed Dates:

- 2023: September

- 2022: September
- 2020: December
- 2019: December
- 2018: June
- 2016: July
- 2015: July
- 2012: August

Effective Date:

- January 2011

## 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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(2023). Retrieved Aug 16, 2023, from American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery AAO-HNS: <https://www.entnet.org/?s=glottic+insufficiency&site=>

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Radiesse Voice Injectable Implant (Merz Aesthetics Inc.) For Treatment of Glottic Insufficiency Including Vocal Cord Paralysis. (n.d.). Retrieved Aug 16, 2023, from Hayes: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/htb.radiesse1294>

SILK VOICE. (2023). Retrieved Aug 16, 2023, from SOFREGEN: <https://www.sofregen.com/silk-voice>

## Special Notes: \*

This medical policy expresses Sentara Health Plan's determination of medical necessity of services, and they are based upon a review of currently available clinical information. Medical policies are not a substitute for clinical judgment or for any prior authorization requirements of the health plan. These policies are not an explanation of benefits.

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.

**Keywords:**

SHP Bulking Agents for Vocal Cord Insufficiency, Radiesse voice gel injection, shp medical 153, vocal cord, Glottis insufficiency, vocal cord fold, vocal fold injection, VFI, VFI bulking agents, Injection laryngoplasty, Voice Injectable Implant, vocal cord augmentation, Injection Augmentation