PURPOSE

This policy outlines guidelines and criteria for coverage determination of nasal valve suspension.

DESCRIPTION

Nasal obstruction is a common condition affecting both children and adults. One cause of nasal obstruction is nasal valve collapse. This refers to narrowness and weakness at the nasal valve, the narrowest part of the nasal airway. There are a number of surgical approaches available to treat nasal valve collapse. Selection of the appropriate surgical intervention depends on the proper identification of the anatomic cause of the collapse. Grafts, nasal stents, as well as other modalities that lateralize the nasal soft tissues have been used for this condition, and have had limited success. Nasal valve suspension, another surgical alternative to this condition, refers to a surgical approach that involves suspension of the valve to the orbital rim or the use of lateral suture(s) suspension. During the procedure, an anchored suture is first attached to the orbital rim and then a suture is passed through the collapsed valve. The suspension suture is then returned to the anchor site at the orbital rim and tied, resulting in a repaired nasal valve that presumably allows for less obstructed airflow.

A review of the medical literature fails to reveal any randomized clinical trials evaluating this surgical technique. Also, no long-term follow up studies have been found. And to date, no well-designed additional studies comparing nasal valve suspension with other surgical alternatives have been published.

GUIDELINES/INSTRUCTIONS

SCOPE: This policy addresses the use of nasal valve suspension for nasal valve collapse.

POSITION:

Investigational and Not Medically Necessary:

Nasal valve suspension as a surgical technique for the repair of nasal valve collapse is considered investigational and not medically necessary.
CODING:

When services are Investigational and Not Medically Necessary:
When the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as investigational and not medically necessary.

CPT
30999 Unlisted procedure, nose [when specified as nasal valve suspension by any method]

HCPCS
No specific code for nasal valve suspension by any method

ICD-10Diagnosis
All diagnoses

Services are Investigational and Not Medically Necessary
When the codes describe a procedure indicated in the Policy section as investigational and not medically necessary.

REFERENCES:


Peer Reviewed Publications:

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