

THERAPEUTIC APHERESIS

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I. CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

36520, 36521

II. DESCRIPTION

Any procedure in which blood is withdrawn from a donor, a portion (plasma, leukocytes, platelets, etc.) is separated and retained, and the remainder is retransfused into the donor.

III. POLICY

Therapeutic apheresis is covered when medically necessary and the standard of medical practice. Outlined below are some examples of conditions for which therapeutic apheresis is indicated. The list of indications is not all inclusive. Other indications are covered when documented by reliable evidence as safe, effective and comparable or superior to standard care (proven).

- A. Myasthenia gravis during a life-threatening crisis;
- B. Goodpasture's Syndrome.
- C. Life-threatening immune complex rheumatoid vasculitis;
- D. Multiple myeloma (symptomatic monoclonal gammopathy).
- E. Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia.
- F. Hypergammaglobulinemia purpura.
- G. Cryoglobulinemia.
- H. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura.

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TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 4, SECTION 9.4

THERAPEUTIC APHERESIS

- I. Guillain-Barre syndrome.
- J. Membranous and proliferative nephritis (glomerulonephritis).
- K. Chronic myelogenous leukemia.
- L. Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy.

M. Familial hypercholesterolemia. The device must be FDA approved and used only in accordance with FDA labeling.

N. Leukapheresis in the treatment of leukemia.

O. Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).

P. Hyperviscosity syndromes.

Q. Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.

R. Post-transfusion purpura.

S. Refsum's disease.

IV. EXCLUSION

Therapeutic apheresis for the treatment of desmoplastic small, round-cell tumor is unproven.

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