CATHETER ABLATION FOR CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS
MED202.043

COVERAGE:

Catheter ablation MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE for the treatment of recurrent supraventricular tachyarrhythmias that are refractory to medical therapy for the following procedures:

- ablation of the AV node using low energy capacitive direct current or radiofrequency energy;
- modulation of the AV node using radiofrequency energy;
- ablation of accessory pathways using radiofrequency energy.

Catheter ablation using radiofrequency energy is considered medically necessary for the treatment of chronic, recurrent, drug-resistant ventricular tachycardias with an identifiable arrhythmogenic focus originating in the right ventricle or outside the right ventricle outflow tract.

NOTE: Permanent pacemaker implantation might be necessary following this procedure.

DESCRIPTION:

Catheter ablation is a technique for eliminating cardiac arrhythmias by selectively destroying the arrhythmogenic focus or conduction pathway by radiofrequency or direct current. Catheter ablation is invasive in that a catheter is passed into the heart via an arm or leg vein. The technique treats supraventricular tachycardias by partially or fully ablating the atrioventricular (AV) node or accessory conduction pathways, thus ablating the arrhythmogenic focus. It controls idiopathic ventricular or re-entrant ventricular tachycardias by eliminating the focus. Ablation is preceded by discovery and mapping of the focus during electrophysiologic studies utilizing cardiac catheterization.

RATIONALE:

None

DISCLAIMER:

State and federal law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, takes precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Any benefits are subject to the payment of premiums for the date on which services are rendered. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically. HMO Blue Texas physicians who are contracted/affiliated with a capitated IPA/medical group must contact the IPA/medical group for information regarding HMO claims/reimbursement information and other
general polices and procedures.

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