ANGELCHIK ANTI-REFLUX PROSTHESIS
SUR709.007
POSTED DATE: 8/22/2003
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/1/2003

COVERAGE:

The Angelchik (TM) anti-reflux prosthesis is considered experimental or investigational.

DESCRIPTION:

The Angelchik™ anti-reflux prosthesis is designed to reduce and prevent further sliding of a hiatal hernia and prevent reflux of gastric contents into the esophagus. The device is a C-shaped elastomer ring, filled with silicone gel, and surrounded by a radiopaque tie. The prosthesis is surgically implanted below the diaphragm and encircles the lower esophageal segment. It is intended as an alternative to traditional gastropexy or fundoplication procedures.

RATIONALE:

According to the literature, the Angelchik anti-reflux prosthesis is seldom used because it is associated with high complication rates.

PRICING:

None

REFERENCES:

• AMA Diagnostic and Therapeutic Technology Assessment, Angelchik Antireflux Prosthesis, October 31, 1985, pages 1 - 6.

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.