18.2.18 Baclofen Therapy

Consideration shall be given for Medicaid reimbursement for implantation of an intrathecal baclofen therapy (IBT) infusion pump if the treatment is considered medically necessary; the candidate is four years of age or older with a body mass sufficient to support the implanted system, and any one or more of the criteria as described below apply.

Inclusive criteria for candidates with spasticity of cerebral origin:

1. There is severe spasticity of cerebral origin with no more than mild athetosis;
2. The injury is older than one year;
3. There has been a drop in Ashworth scale of 1 or more;
4. Spasticity of cerebral origin is resistant to conservative management; and
5. The candidate has a positive response to test dose of Intrathecal Baclofen.

Inclusive criteria for candidates with spasticity of spinal cord origin:

1. Spasticity of spinal cord origin that is resistant to oral antispasmodics or side effects unacceptable in effective doses;
2. There has been a drop in Ashworth scale of two or more; or
3. The candidate has a positive response to test dose of Intrathecal Baclofen.

Caution should be exercised when considering IBT infusion pump implantation for candidates who: have a history of autonomic dysreflexia; suffer from psychotic disorders; have other implanted devices; or utilize spasticity to increase function such as in posture, balance and locomotion.

Exclusion Criteria

Consideration for an implantation of an IBT infusion pump shall not be made if the candidate:

1. Fails to meet any of the inclusion criteria;
2. Is pregnant, or refuses or fails to use adequate methods of birth control;
3. Has a severely impaired renal or hepatic function;
4. Has a traumatic brain injury of less than one year pre-existent to the date of the screening dose;
5. Has a history of hypersensitivity to oral baclofen;
6. Has a systemic or localized infection which could infect the implanted pump; or
7. Does not respond positively to a 50, 75 or 100 mcg Intrathecal bolus of Lioresal during the screening trial procedure.

Diagnoses Covered

The following diagnoses are considered appropriate for IBT treatment and infusion pump implantation:

1. Meningitis;
2. Encephalitis;
3. Dystonia;
4. Multiple sclerosis;
5. Spastic hemiplegia;
6. Infantile cerebral palsy;
7. Other specified paralytic syndromes;

8. Acute, but ill-defined, cerebrovascular disease;
9. Closed fracture of base of skull;
10. Open fracture of base of skull;
11. Closed skull fracture;
12. Fracture of vertebral column with spinal cord injury;
13. Intracranial injury of other & unspecified nature; and
14. Spinal cord injury without spinal bone injury.

Prior Authorization for IBT

Prior authorization for chronic infusion of IBT must be requested after the screening trial procedure has been completed, but **prior** to pump implantation.

The request to initiate chronic infusion must come from the multidisciplinary team that evaluates the beneficiary. This multidisciplinary team must be a neurosurgeon or an orthopedic surgeon, a psychiatrist and/or neurologist, the beneficiary's attending physician, a nurse, a social worker and allied professionals (physical therapist, occupational therapist, etc.).

These professionals must have expertise in the evaluation, management and treatment of spasticity of cerebral and spinal cord origin and shall have undergone training in infusion therapy and pump implantation by a recognized product supplier with expertise in Intrathecal Baclofen.

The following documentation must be submitted in one package by the multidisciplinary team:

1. A recent history with documentation of assessments in the following areas:
    a. Medical and physical;
    b. Neurological;
    c. Functional; and
    d. Psychosocial.

2. Ashworth scores taken before and after the administration of IBT test dose(s); and

3. Documentation of any other findings about the beneficiary's condition which would be of interest to or would assist the Medical Review team in making a decision regarding the beneficiary's need for chronic infusion, i.e., a video tape of the trial dosage.