



Medica Central Coverage Policy

Policy Name: Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP) MP9620

Effective Date: 09/01/2024

Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica Central plans. Coverage is subject to requirements in applicable federal or state laws. Please refer to the member's plan document for other specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's plan document, the member's plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare, Medicaid, and other government programs, this policy will apply unless these programs require different coverage.

Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions may call the Provider Service Center. Please use the Quick Reference Guide on the Provider Communications page for the appropriate phone number. <https://mo-central.medica.com/Providers/SSM-employee-health-plan-for-IL-MO-OK-providers>

Medica Central coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care, and treatment.

Coverage Policy

Note: This policy is no longer scheduled for routine review of the scientific literature.

Enhanced external counterpulsation (EECP) is **COVERED** for patients with disabling chronic stable angina (Grade III or IV; Canadian Cardiovascular Society Classification or equivalent classification) on maximal medical therapy who are not readily amenable to surgical interventions (including but not limited to angioplasty or revascularization), i.e.

- a. their condition is inoperable, or there is high risk of operative complications or post-operative failure; or
- b. their coronary anatomy is not readily amenable to such procedures; or
- c. they have co-morbid states which create excessive risk.

All other indications are investigative and unproven and therefore **NOT COVERED**, including the use of enhanced external counterpulsation for heart failure. There is insufficient reliable evidence in the form of high quality peer-reviewed medical literature to establish the efficacy or effects on health care outcomes.

Description

Enhanced external counterpulsation (EECP), also referred to as external counterpulsation (ECP), is a non-invasive, outpatient therapy. A set of inflatable cuffs, attached to air hoses that inflate and deflate, are wrapped around the patient's calves, thighs, and buttocks. Inflation and deflation are synchronized with the heartbeat and blood pressure using an electrocardiograph (ECG) monitor. The EECP treatment firmly compresses the blood vessels in the lower limbs to increase blood flow to the heart. Each wave of pressure is timed to the heartbeat, so that the increased blood flow is delivered to the heart at the moment it is relaxing. When the heart pumps again, pressure is

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released which lowers the resistance in the blood vessels in the legs, thereby decreasing the heart's workload.

EECP is purported to cause blood vessels to open small channels that become extra branches. These channels or collaterals may become “natural bypass” vessels to provide blood flow to the heart muscle, thus relieving angina symptoms. EECP is not generally considered a first-line therapy, but is usually reserved for patients who are not amenable to optimal medical and/or surgical treatment. Patients receive this therapy for one to two hours a day, five days per week for seven weeks, for a total of 35 hours.

Canadian Cardiovascular Society grading of angina pectoris:

- Grade I: Ordinary physical activity does not cause angina, such as walking and climbing stairs. Angina with strenuous or rapid or prolonged exertion at work or recreation.
- Grade II: Slight limitation of ordinary activity. Walking or climbing stairs rapidly, walking uphill, walking or stair climbing after meals, or in cold, or in wind, or under emotional stress, or only during the few hours after awakening. Walking more than two blocks on the level and climbing more than one flight of ordinary stairs at a normal pace and in normal conditions.
- Grade III: Marked limitation of ordinary physical activity. Walking one or two blocks on the level and climbing one flight of stairs in normal conditions and at normal pace.
- Grade IV: Inability to carry on any physical activity without discomfort, anginal syndrome may be present at rest.

FDA Approval

Several EECP/ECP devices have received FDA approval. Examples include, but not limited to:

1. CardiAssist™
2. EECP® Therapy System Model MC-2, TS3, TS4, and Lumenair
3. Genesis™

Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is not required. However, services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial may result if criteria are not met.

Coding Considerations

Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

- **G0166** - External counterpulsation, per treatment session



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