JOHNS HOPKINS HEALTHCARE

Medical Policy: SpeechEasy Fluency Device
Department: Health Services
Lines of Business: EHP, USFHP, PPMCO, ADVANTAGE MD

Policy Number CMS19.08
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ACTION:
☐ New Policy
☐ Revising Policy Number
☐ Superseding Policy Number
☒ Archiving Policy Number: CMS19.08
☐ Retiring Policy Number

Effective Date: 01/14/1997
Review Dates: 10/22/03, 10/22/04, 10/21/05, 10/10/06, 03/03/08, 03/02/09, 06/04/10, 08/23/11, 09/07/12, 12/05/14, 03/03/17

Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC (JHHC) provides a full spectrum of health care products and services for Employer Health Programs, Priority Partners, Advantage MD, and US Family Health Plan. Each line of business possesses its own unique contract and guidelines which, for benefit and payment purposes, should be consulted to know what benefits are available for reimbursement. Specific contract benefits, guidelines or policies supersede the information outlined in this policy.

ACTIVE AND ARCHIVED

This document has been archived as of 12/05/14 and is no longer scheduled for review for either one or more of the following reasons:
1. This document is either primarily administrative in nature AND/OR
2. It addresses operational issues only AND/OR
3. It is mandated by statute or regulation AND/OR
4. It is unlikely that further published literature would change the determination.

ARCHIVED POLICIES REMAIN ACTIVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEDICAL NECESSITY DETERMINATION

POLICY:

For US Family Health Plan see TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.57-M, February 1, 2008, Special Otorhinolaryngologic Services: Chapter 7, Section 8.1

For Advantage MD, see Medicare Coverage Database:
Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) do not exist at this time. (Accessed December 7, 2016)
Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for SpeechEasy Fluency Device

1. Unless specific benefits are provided under the member’s contract, JHHC considers the SpeechEasy® device experimental and investigational, as it does not meet Technology Evaluation Criteria (TEC) #2-5.
BACKGROUND:

Stuttering is a disorder in which affects speech fluency. Normal speech flow is disrupted as certain sounds, syllables, and words are repeated or prolonged. Stuttering is a common disorder affecting approximately three million individuals in the United States (ASHA, 2017).

The SpeechEasy® Fluency devices are small, inconspicuous and resemble hearing aids. Often ordered for stuttering, they digitally replay the patient’s own words into their ear with a very slight delay and alteration in frequency. The patient’s brain perceives that it is speaking with others which may trigger a choral effect and suppress stuttering. SpeechEasy® devices are custom fitted by a speech-language pathologist, who also instructs the patient in various behavioral vocal techniques to enhance the stuttering relief.

CODING INFORMATION:

CPT Copyright 2017 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

Note: The following CPT/HCPCS codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a CPT/HCPCS code(s) below does not signify or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. The member's specific benefit plan determines coverage and referral requirements. All inpatient admissions require pre-authorization.

Compliance with the provision in this policy may be monitored and addressed through post-payment data analysis and/or medical review audits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer Health Programs (EHP) **See Specific Summary Plan Description (SPD)</th>
<th>Priority Partners (PPMCO) refer to COMAR guidelines and PPMCO SPD then apply policy criteria</th>
<th>US Family Health Plan (USFHP), TRICARE Medical Policy supersedes JHHC Medical Policy. If there is no Policy in TRICARE, apply the Medical Policy Criteria</th>
<th>Advantage MD, LCD and NCD Medical Policy supersedes JHHC Medical Policy. If there is no LCD or NCD, apply the Medical Policy Criteria</th>
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REFERENCE STATEMENT:

Analyses of the scientific and clinical references cited below were conducted and utilized by the Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC (JHHC) Medical Policy Team during the development and implementation of this medical policy. Per NCQA standards, the Medical Policy Team will continue to monitor and review any newly published clinical evidence and adjust the references below accordingly if deemed necessary.

REFERENCES:


