Authorization criteria:  
Endovascular intervention, peripheral artery  
For Blue Cross Medicare Plus Blue℠ PPO members

Clinical review is required for adult members (age ≥18). The medical necessity criteria are outlined below.


**Acute limb ischemia (urgent)**  
Absence of a pulse distal to the identified occlusion AND TWO or MORE of the following symptoms must be met in the affected extremity:
1. Sudden onset of severe pain
2. Numbness
3. Coldness
4. Weakness

**Vein graft stenosis**  
Vein graft stenosis identified by imaging

**Claudication of the common iliac artery, external iliac artery, femoral artery or popliteal artery**  
ALL must be met:
1. Pain of the extremities that interferes with mobility related activities of daily living
2. Stenosis identified by imaging AND ANY of the following:
   a. Common iliac arterial lesion
   b. External iliac arterial lesion
   c. Femoral arterial lesion
   d. Popliteal arterial lesion
3. EITHER of the following:
   a. ONE OR MORE of the following:
      i. Resting ankle-brachial index (ABI) 0.9 or less
      ii. ABI greater than 1.4 and toe – brachial index less than 0.7
      iii. Exercise or hyperemic ABI of 0.9 or less
      iv. Toe pressure of 50 mmHg or less
      v. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5mm or less
      vi. Transcutaneous Po2 of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less
   b. Continued symptoms or findings after treatment with ALL of the following:
      i. Supervised exercise sessions of 30 to 60 minutes 3 times per week for a minimum of 3 months (12 weeks)
      ii. Smoking cessation or reduction for at least 12 weeks OR nonsmoker
      iii. Cilostazol or pentoxifylline for at least 12 weeks (unless contraindicated or not tolerated)
      iv. Cholesterol management for at least 12 weeks

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Gangrene or impending gangrene of foot or toe
BOTH must be present:

1. Stenosis identified by imaging
2. ONE or MORE of the following:
   a. Resting ankle-brachial index (ABI) 0.9 or less
   b. ABI greater than 1.4 and toe – brachial index less than 0.7
   c. Exercise or hyperemic ABI of 0.9 or less
   d. Toe pressure of 50 mmHg or less
   e. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5mm or less
   f. Transcutaneous Po2 of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less

In-stent or recurrent stenosis
ALL must be met:

1. Stenosis identified by imaging
2. ONE or MORE of the following symptoms?
   a. Claudication
   b. Rest Pain
   c. Nonhealing ulcer or wound at the lower leg or foot
   d. Gangrene or impending gangrene of foot or toe
3. ONE or MORE of the following:
   a. Resting ankle-brachial index (ABI) 0.9 or less
   b. ABI greater than 1.4 and toe – brachial index less than 0.7
   c. Exercise or hyperemic ABI of 0.9 or less
   d. Toe pressure of 50 mmHG or less
   e. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5mm or less
   f. Transcutaneous Po2 of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less

Nonhealing ulcer or wound of the lower leg or foot
BOTH must be met:

1. Stenosis identified by imaging
2. ONE or MORE of the following:
   a. Resting ankle-brachial index (ABI) 0.9 or less
   b. ABI greater than 1.4 and toe – brachial index less than 0.7
   c. Exercise or hyperemic ABI of 0.9 or less
   d. Toe pressure of 50 mmHG or less
   e. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5mm or less
   f. Transcutaneous Po2 of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less

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Rest pain
BOTH must be met:

1. Stenosis identified by imaging
2. ONE or MORE of the following:
   a. Resting ankle-brachial index (ABI) 0.9 or less
   b. ABI greater than 1.4 and toe – brachial index less than 0.7
   c. Exercise or hyperemic ABI of 0.9 or less
   d. Toe pressure of 50 mmHG or less
   e. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5mm or less
   f. Transcutaneous Po2 of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less

References
McKesson’s InterQual® 2016 Procedures Adult Criteria, Endovascular Intervention, Peripheral Artery

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