

Authorization criteria: Endovascular intervention, peripheral artery

**For BCN HMOSM (commercial) and BCN AdvantageSM members
For Blue Cross Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO members**

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

CPT code(s): *0238T, *37220, *37221, *37224, *37225, *37226, *37227, *37228, *37229, *37230 and *37231

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 (such as duplex ultrasound, Doppler, CTA, MRA or angiography)

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. 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. Exercise ABI more than a 20 percent decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - e. Exercise ABI of at least a 30 mmHg decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - f. Resting toe pressure of 50 mmHg or less
 - g. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5 mm or less
 - h. Transcutaneous Po₂ of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less
3. Stenosis identified by imaging (such as duplex ultrasound, Doppler, CTA, MRA or angiography) AND ONE of the following:
 - a. Common iliac arterial lesion
 - b. External iliac arterial lesion
 - c. Femoral arterial lesion OR popliteal arterial lesion AND 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 (such as duplex ultrasound, Doppler, CTA, MRA or angiography)
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. Exercise ABI more than a 20 percent decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - e. Exercise ABI of at least a 30 mmHg decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - f. Resting toe pressure of 50 mmHg or less
 - g. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5 mm or less
 - h. Transcutaneous Po₂ of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less

In-stent or recurrent stenosis

ALL must be met:

1. Stenosis identified by imaging (such as duplex ultrasound, Doppler, CTA, MRA or angiography)
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. Exercise ABI more than a 20 percent decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - e. Exercise ABI of at least a 30 mmHg decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - f. Resting toe pressure of 50 mmHG or less
 - g. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5 mm or less
 - h. 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 (such as duplex ultrasound, Doppler, CTA, MRA or angiography)
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. Exercise ABI more than a 20 percent decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - e. Exercise ABI of at least a 30 mmHg decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - f. Resting toe pressure of 50 mmHG or less
 - g. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5 mm or less
 - h. 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 (such as duplex ultrasound, Doppler, CTA, MRA or angiography)
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. Exercise ABI more than a 20 percent decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - e. Exercise ABI of at least a 30 mmHg decrease from baseline and delayed recovery
 - f. Resting toe pressure of 50 mmHG or less
 - g. Transmetatarsal or ankle pulse volume recording (PVR) amplitude of 5 mm or less
 - h. Transcutaneous Po₂ of 30 mmHg (4.0 kPa) or less

References

McKesson's InterQual[®] 2017 Procedures Adult Criteria, Endovascular Intervention, Peripheral Artery