

Authorization criteria: Varicose vein treatment for adults (ligation, stripping and echosclerotherapy)

For Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM members

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

CPT codes: *36465, *36466, *36470, *36471, *36475, *36476, *36478, *36479, *37700, *37718, *37722, *37780, *37785, *37799 and S2202

Symptomatic varicose vein

The patient must have ONE of the following:

1. Itching or discomfort or heaviness in legs and varicosity by physical exam and ALL:
 - a. Symptoms interfere with activities of daily living
 - b. Continued symptoms after activity modification for at least 6 weeks (includes weight loss, light to moderate physical activity, leg elevation when at rest and avoidance of factors that make symptoms worse)
 - c. Superficial venous reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound
 - d. Endovenous thermal ablation is not feasible
2. Superficial thrombophlebitis and ONE of the following:
 - a. Initial episode and BOTH:
 - i. Symptoms continue after treatment with at least ONE of the following:
 1. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications or acetaminophen for at least 3 weeks
 2. Low molecular weight heparin for at least 6 weeks
 3. Fondaparinux for at least 6 weeks
 - ii. Endovenous thermal ablation is not feasible
 - b. Recurrent episode and endovenous thermal ablation is not feasible
3. Significant hemorrhage (defined as substantial blood loss requiring blood transfusion) or recurrent bleeding from a superficial varicosity and endovenous thermal ablation is not feasible

Chronic venous insufficiency

The patient must have ONE of the following:

1. Active venous ulcer with superficial or perforator venous reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound and findings continue after BOTH:
 - a. Wound care with dressing for at least 6 weeks
 - b. Compression hose for at least 6 weeks
2. Healed venous ulcer with superficial or perforator venous reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound
3. Lipodermatosclerosis (indurated skin that may have brown-red pigmentation) and ONE of the following:
 - a. Saphenous vein reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound AND continued findings after at least 6 weeks of compression hose use

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- b. Perforator vein reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound AND planned saphenous reflux procedure
4. Leg or ankle edema or swelling with superficial vein reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound and findings continue after ALL of the following:
 - a. Compression hose for at least 6 weeks
 - b. Physical therapy or home exercise for at least 6 weeks
 - c. Leg elevation for at least 6 weeks
5. Pigmentation or eczema of the skin with superficial vein reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound and findings continue after ALL of the following:
 - a. Compression hose for at least 6 weeks
 - b. Physical therapy or home exercise for at least 6 weeks
 - c. Leg elevation for at least 6 weeks

Recurrent or residual varicose vein post varicose vein procedure

The patient must have ONE of the following:

1. Superficial or perforator venous reflux of at least 500 milliseconds by duplex ultrasound and prior saphenous vein procedure
2. Prior saphenous vein procedure and varicose tributary (branch vein of a main vein usually either the great saphenous vein or small saphenous vein)

References

Change HealthCare's InterQual[®] 2022 Procedures Adult Criteria, Ligation/Excision, Varicose Veins +/- Stripping

Change HealthCare's InterQual 2022 Procedures Adult Criteria, Sclerotherapy, Varicose Veins

Change HealthCare's InterQual 2022 Procedures Adult Criteria, Ablation, Endovenous, Varicose Vein

Blue Cross/BCN Medical Policy Echosclerotherapy for the Treatment of Varicose Veins, effective May 1, 2022