

BOTULINUM TOXIN A INJECTIONS

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I. CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

46505, 64612 - 64614, 64640, 64653, 67345

II. DESCRIPTION

These procedures involve the injection of small amounts of botulinum toxin type A into selected muscles for the nonsurgical treatment of the conditions relating to spasticity, various dystonias, nerve disorders, and muscular tonicity deviations.

III. POLICY

A. Botulinum toxin A injections may be considered for cost-sharing for treating conditions such as cervical dystonia (repetitive contraction of the neck muscles) in decreasing the severity of abnormal head position and neck pain for patients 16 years and older.

B. Botulinum toxin A injections may be considered for cost-sharing for treating conditions such as blepharospasm (spasm of the eyelids/uncontrolled blinking) and strabismus (squinting/eyes do not point in the same direction) associated with dystonia, including benign essential blepharospasm or VII nerve disorders for patients 12 years of age and older.

C. Botulinum toxin A injections may be considered for cost-sharing for treating conditions such as severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis (severe underarm sweating) that is inadequately managed by topical agents for patients 18 years of age and older.

D. Botox® (chemodenervation-CPT¹ procedure code 46505) may be considered for off-label cost-sharing for the treatment of chronic anal fissure unresponsive to conservative therapeutic measures, effective May 1, 2007.

E. Botulinum toxin A injections may be considered for off-label cost-sharing for the treatment of spasticity resulting from Cerebral Palsy (CP), effective November 1, 2008.

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F. Botox® (OnabotulinumtoxinA) and Myobloc® (RimabotulinumtoxinB) injections may be considered for off-label cost-sharing for the treatment of sialorrhea associated with Parkinson disease patients who are refractory to, or unable to tolerate, systemic anticholinergics, effective October 1, 2009.

G. Botulinum toxin A (OnabotulinumtoxinA) injections for prophylaxis of headaches in adult patients with chronic migraine, which is defined as 15 days or more per month with headache lasting four hours a day or longer.

H. Botulinum toxin A (OnabotulinumtoxinA) injections to treat spasticity in flexor muscles of the elbow, wrist, and fingers (upper limb spasticity) in adults.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Botulinum toxin A injections are unproven for the following indications:

1. Palmar hyperhidrosis.
2. Urinary urge incontinence.
3. Lower back pain/lumbago.
4. Episodic migraine, chronic daily headache, cluster headache, cervicogenic headache, and tension-type headache.

B. Botox® (chemodenervation-CPT² procedure code 64612) for the treatment of muscle spasms secondary to cervical degenerative disc disease and spinal column stenosis is unproven.

V. EFFECTIVE DATES

A. May 1, 2007, for coverage of chronic anal fissure unresponsive to conservative therapeutic measures (CPT² procedure code 46505).

B. October 1, 2009, for coverage of sialorrhea associated with Parkinson disease patients who are refractory to, or unable to tolerate systemic anticholinergics (CPT² procedure code 64653).

C. October 15, 2010, coverage for prophylaxis of headaches in adult patients with chronic migraine, which is defined as 15 days or more per month with headache lasting four hours a day or longer.

D. March 9, 2010, coverage for spasticity in flexor muscles of the elbow, wrist, and fingers (upper limb spasticity) in adults.

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