

Total Disc Arthroplasty

Medical Policy

Utilization Management

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I. **DEFINITION:**

Total disc arthroplasty (TDA), also known as total disc replacement, is a minimally invasive spinal surgery used to treat damaged and degenerated spinal discs. During the procedure, the degenerated disc is removed and replaced with an artificial disc. Age, genetics, traumatic accidents and normal wear and tear can all lead to degenerative disc disease (DDD), which can cause significant pain, inflammation, nerve compression, numbness, weakness and loss of mobility. Replacement with an artificial disc in the neck (cervical spine) and low back (lumbar spine) preserves the natural structure and height in the spine and restores fluid movement and flexibility.

II. **MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS:**

Prior authorization is required through eviCore for all ages. To start prior authorization, contact eviCore at 888-444-6185 or log on to www.evicore.com.

Medicare has not released a National Coverage Decision for this procedure. MyAdvocate Medicare Advantage has made the determination to follow the policy for Medicare Advantage members the same as it applies to Commercial.

[Decision Memo for Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement \(CAG-00292N\)](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that LADR is not reasonable and necessary for the Medicare population over sixty years of age. Therefore, Section 150.10 of the Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual is amended to

reflect the change from non-coverage for LADR with a specific implant to non-coverage for the LADR procedure for the Medicare population over sixty years of age. For Medicare beneficiaries sixty years of age and under, there is no national coverage determination, leaving such determinations to be made on a local basis.

III. **COMMENTS:**

[Total Disc Arthroplasty Coding and Packing Guidelines](#) (For MyAdvocate Medicare Advantage internal use only)

IV. **REFERENCES:**

Hayes, Inc. Clinical Research Response. Portable Accelerometer-Based Navigation Using KneeAlign (OrthAlign) for Knee Arthroplasty. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com>. Published May 28, 2020. Updated Jul 18, 2018. ARCHIVED Aug 17, 2019.

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