Definitions

| Total Ankle Replacement (TAA) | Total ankle replacement (aka total ankle arthroplasty [TAA]) consists of replacing a diseased ankle joint with a prosthetic plastic and metal joint. The procedure has been proposed as an alternative to ankle arthrodesis (fusion) for conditions such as severe osteoarthritis (OA), post-traumatic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. |

Guideline

Members with a severely degenerative ankle or severe inflammatory arthritis (e.g., OA, post-traumatic or rheumatoid), who are skeletally mature with sufficient bone stock, are eligible for TAA with an FDA- approved device when the following criteria are met:

- Loss of ankle mobility and function
- Moderate to severe pain unrelieved by ≥ 6 months of conservative therapy (e.g., anti-inflammatory medications, orthotics, activity modification, physical
AND ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

- Arthritis in adjacent joints of the involved extremity (i.e., subtalar, midfoot)
- Severe arthritis of the contralateral ankle
- Previous arthrodesis of the contralateral ankle

Limitations/Exclusions
TAA is not considered medically necessary when any of the following are applicable:

- Active infection in the joint or adjacent bones
- Insufficient bone stock/osteonecrosis
- Loss of musculature in the affected limb/insufficient ligament support that is not repairable
- Lower extremity vascular insufficiency
- Neurologic impairment affecting muscle function about the ankle/peripheral neuropathy
- Severe ankle deformity
- Malalignment/severe deformity of involved or adjacent anatomic structures (e.g. hindfoot, forefoot, knee)

Applicable Coding

To access the codes, please download the policy to your computer, and click on the paperclip icon within the policy

References


Dyrby C, Chou LB, Andriacchi TP, Mann RA. Functional evaluation of the Scandinavian total ankle
Schuberth JM, Patel S, Zarutsky E. Perioperative complications of the Agility total ankle replacement in 50 initial, consecutive cases. J Foot Ankle Surg. 2006; 45(3):139-146.
Stamatis ED, Myerson MS. How to avoid specific complications of total ankle replacement. Foot Ankle Clin.


Specialty matched clinical peer review.

Revision history

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>09/13/2019</td>
<td>• New Policy.</td>
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<td>• ConnectiCare, Inc. has adopted the clinical criteria of its parent corporation, EmblemHealth. Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new CCI template</td>
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