Clinical Policy: Carotid Artery Stenting  
Reference Number: WA.CP.MP.516  
Last Review Date: 09/20  

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description  
This policy describes the medical necessity guidelines for carotid artery stenting.

Policy/Criteria  
I. It is the policy of Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc., in accordance with the Health Care Authority’s Health Technology Assessment, that carotid artery stenting is considered medically necessary per InterQual guidelines.

II. It is the policy of Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc., in accordance with the Health Care Authority’s Health Technology Assessment, that carotid artery stenting must be done with FDA-approved stents and FDA-approved or FDA-cleared embolic protection devices and must be conducted in a state accredited facility.

III. InterQual guidelines meet or exceed the HTA requirement that carotid artery stenting meet the following criteria:

   A. High surgical risk for carotid endarterectomy (CEA) and symptomatic carotid artery stenosis > 50% or
   B. High surgical risk for CEA and asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis >= 80%.
   C. Patients at high surgical risk for CEA are defined as having anatomic risk factors (i.e., recurrent stenosis and/or previous radical neck dissection) and/or significant comorbidities such as, but not limited to:
      i. Congestive heart failure class III/IV
      ii. Left ventricular ejection fraction < 30%
      iii. Unstable angina
      iv. Contralateral carotid occlusion
      v. Recent myocardial infarction
      vi. Previous CEA with recurrent stenosis
      vii. Prior radiation treatment to the neck

IV. It is the policy of Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc., in accordance with the Health Care Authority’s Health Technology Assessment, that carotid artery stenting of intracranial arteries is not covered.

Background  
This policy is based entirely on Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Health Care Authority Billing Guidelines.

Coding Implications  
This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2019, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are
included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT® Codes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37215</td>
<td>Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s), cervical carotid artery, open or percutaneous,</td>
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<td>including angioplasty when performed; with distal embolic protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>37216</td>
<td>Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s), cervical carotid artery, open or percutaneous,</td>
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<td>including angioplasty when performed; with distal embolic protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>37217</td>
<td>Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s), intrathoracic common carotid artery or innominate</td>
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<td>artery by retrograde treatment, open ipsilateral cervical carotid artery exposure, including</td>
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<td>angioplasty when performed</td>
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<tr>
<td>37218</td>
<td>Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s), intrathoracic common carotid artery or innominate</td>
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<td>artery, open or percutaneous antegrade approach, including angioplasty when performed</td>
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<tr>
<td>0075T</td>
<td>Transcatheter placement of extracranial vertrebral artery stent(s), open or percutaneous; initial</td>
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<td>vessel</td>
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<tr>
<td>0076T</td>
<td>Transcatheter placement of extracranial vertrebral artery stent(s), open or percutaneous; each</td>
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<td>additional vessel</td>
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<tr>
<th>Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
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<td>Policy developed.</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>10/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual review. References updated.</td>
<td>09/20</td>
<td>10/20</td>
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References

Important Reminder
This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and
accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in
developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical
practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health
plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part,
by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a
component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering
benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage
decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and
limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy,
contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health
Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting
may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to
applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a
discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or
regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan
retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical
policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is
not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise
professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible
for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to
recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in
connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent
judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not
agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and
distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited.
Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed
herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members
and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to
members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the
coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence.
Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical
policy.