

MedStar Health, Inc.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.016.MH
Last Review Date: 02/25/2021
Effective Date: 05/01/2021

MP.016.MH – Temporomandibular Joint Disorders

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar CareFirst PPO

MedStar Health considers the treatment of **Temporomandibular Joint Disorders** medically necessary for the following indications:

Moderate to severe pain presented as TMJ pain, preauricular pain, referred ear pain, or masticatory muscle pain

- a) Disabling joint function characterized by:
 - i. Restricted range of jaw motion
 - ii. Excessive range of jaw motion
 - iii. Joint noises (clicking, popping, and crepitation) associated with pain
 - iv. Abnormal masticatory function (e.g. painful chewing)
- b) Imaging evidence of joint derangement or disease

Therapeutic Management:

1. Coverage for Nonsurgical Management:
 - a) Medical visits
 - b) Diagnostic x-rays/imaging studies (radiographs, panoramic radiographic imaging, cephalometric radiographic images, arthrogram, MRI and/or CT)
 - c) Pharmacological treatment for pain – usually pain is relieved with over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or other pain medications
 - d) Arthrocentesis
 - e) TMJ joint injections – intracapsular diagnostic and therapeutic injections or injections of anesthetic agents into the trigeminal nerve are limited to once per course of treatment

Note: Documentation must indicate patient education related to stress reduction, dietary recommendations, jaw rest and modification of jaw habits.

2. Surgical treatment is indicated with **at least two** of the following:

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- a) Earaches, headaches, masticatory or cervical myalgias refractory to medical treatment
- b) Difficulty chewing
- c) Restricted range of motion, manifested by **any one** of the following:
 - i. Interincisal opening of less than 35 mm
 - ii. Lateral excursive movement of less than 4 mm (side-to-side movement)
 - iii. Protrusive excursive movement of less than 4 mm (front-to-back motion)
 - iv. Deviation on opening of greater than 5 mm

Note: Surgical intervention is rarely required in the treatment of TMJ disorders. Prior to performing surgical treatment documentation in the medical record must support that treatment with conventional non-surgical therapy for six months has not resulted in adequate improvement.

Covered Surgical treatment includes the following:

- a) Arthroscopic surgery
- b) Arthrotomy or arthroplasty
- c) Disc repair procedures
- d) Discectomy without or with replacement
- e) Articular surface recontouring (condylectomy and eminectomy or eminoplasty)
- f) Removal of failed implants
- g) Mandibular condylotomy
- h) Partial or total joint reconstruction
- i) Condylectomy for DJD (partial or complete)
- j) Orthognathic surgery – for correction of jaw deformities could also be done as an adjunct to definitive joint treatment when related to deformities resulting in TMJ dysfunction
- k) Removable oral splints

Note: All procedures to treat TMJ dislocations must be accompanied with a diagnosis of dislocation.

Limitations

The following services for TMJ disorders are ineligible or **not covered** for payment under this policy:

- a) Dental prostheses (stabilization splints) including the Therabite Jaw Motion Rehabilitation system or orthodontic treatment including irreversible occlusal therapy
- b) Physical Therapy
- c) Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) therapy
- d) Range of motion measurements

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- e) Biofeedback
- f) Botulinum toxin (type A or Type B)
- g) Alloplastic joint implants
- h) Acupuncture
- i) Cognitive behavioral therapy
- j) Pulsed radiofrequency energy - Energex
- k) Electromyography
- l) Kinesiology
- m) Lateral skull X-rays
- n) Neuromuscular junction testing
- o) Nuclear medicine studies
- p) Somatosensory testing
- q) Sonogram
- r) Transcranial X-rays
- s) Ultrasonic Doppler auscultation

Background

TMJ disorders are associated with the temporomandibular joint on the left and right side of the head that is involved in the movement of the jaw. TMJ disorders affect approximately between 3%-5% of the U.S. population and are typically displayed as a form of arthritis as a result of deterioration of the soft tissue and bone or displacement of the articular disc. Typical symptoms associated with TMJ disorders include joint pain, ear pain, headaches, and restricted range of motion of the jaw as well as difficulty chewing and clicking of the jaw. Diagnosis of TMJ disorders are commonly based on patient symptoms and history, physical examination, and imaging studies of the joint to indicate derangement or disease. Conservative treatment for TMJ disorders include physical therapy, anti-inflammatory drugs, muscle relaxants, analgesics, behavior/diet change and removable oral appliances. If those treatments are ineffective, more invasive treatments such as surgical procedures are available.

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes

Code	Description
Medical CPT Codes	
20605	Arthrocentesis, aspiration and/or injection; intermediate joint or bursa (e.g., temporomandibular acromioclavicular, wrist, elbow or ankle, olecranon bursa)
21116	Injection procedure for temporomandibular joint arthrography

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21480 – 21490	Manipulation (open or closed) for a dislocation of the temporomandibular joint
64400	Injection, anesthetic agent (trigeminal nerve)
64999	Unlisted procedure, nervous system
70328 - 70330	Diagnostic x-rays (TMJ joint open, closed, unilateral, bilateral)
70336	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
70450 - 70470	Computer Tomography (head/brain with or without contrast)
70486 - 704888	Computer Tomography (maxillofacial area with or without contrast)
Surgical CPT Codes	
21010	Arthrotomy (temporomandibular joint)
21050	Total condylectomy (temporomandibular joint)
21060	Meniscectomy (partial or complete, temporomandibular joint)
21073	Manipulation of temporomandibular joint(s); temporomandibular joint therapeutic, requiring an anesthesia service (general or monitored anesthesia care)
21240	Arthroplasty, temporomandibular joint with or without autograft
21242	Arthroplasty, temporomandibular joint with allograft
21243	Arthroplasty, temporomandibular joint with prosthetic joint replacement
29800	Arthroscopic procedures of the temporomandibular joint, diagnostic arthroscopy
29804	Therapeutic arthroscopy, temporomandibular joint, surgical
70332	Arthrography – temporomandibular joint radiological supervision & interpretation
70350	Cephalograms, orthodontic
70355	Orthopantomogram
ICD-10 Codes (64999 is excluded from the below diagnosis code restrictions.)	
M26.60-M26.69	Temporomandibular joint disorders
S02.400A- S02.402S	Fracture of malar or maxillary
S02.600A- S02.69XS	Fractures of mandible
S03.0XXA- S03.0XXS	Dislocation of jaw

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Disclaimer:

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