Pulsed Dye Laser Therapy for Cutaneous Vascular Lesions

Last Review Date: October 10, 2025	Number: MG.MM.SU.46b

Definitions

Pulsed dye laser (PDL) emits a specific color or light wavelength that can be varied in intensity and pulse duration. When this light energy interacts with the hemoglobin found in accessible blood vessels comprising a cutaneous lesion, heat is generated that destroys the vessels within the targeted lesion while sparing the surrounding tissue.

Refinement of the technology includes a cryogen spray cooled (CSC) that involves the application of a cryogen spurt to the skin milliseconds prior to laser irradiation. This cools the epidermis thereby reducing thermal injury during treatment.

Guideline

See also Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery Procedures

Members with port wine stains and hemangiomata are eligible for PDL, with or without local topical or general anesthesia. Coverage will be considered until the lesion is gone or when maximum efficacy has been achieved.

Any of the following criteria must be demonstrated as met:

1. Presence of port wine stains in children and adults when a prescription (Rx) is required to alleviate or prevent clinical complications
2. Presence of superficial hemangiomas or the superficial component of mixed hemangiomas in infants and children when a definitive Rx is required to alleviate or prevent clinical complications
3. Presence of post involutional hemangiomas and telangiectasias in infants and children when a definitive Rx is required to alleviate or prevent clinical complications
4. Moderate to severe rosacea with permanent (persistent) central facial telangiectasis (not intermittent flushing or mild telangiectasis)

Documentation

1. Initial pre-treatment photos
2. Post-treatment photos (for treatment requests beyond 3 cycles, or 6 months; each cycle consists of up to

2 months)

Limitations/Exclusions

Requests for cherry angiomas and pyogenic granulomas will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Applicable Procedure Codes

17106	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); less than 10 sq cm
17107	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); 10.0 to 50.0 sq cm
17108	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); over 50.0 sq cm

Applicable ICD-10 Codes

D18.01	Hemangioma of skin and subcutaneous tissue
L71.8	Other rosacea
L71.9	Rosacea, unspecified
Q82.5	Congenital non-neoplastic nevus

References

Hayes Inc. Pulsed Dye Laser Therapy for Cutaneous Vascular Lesions. *Hayes Medical Directory*. Lansdale, Penn: Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; January 17, 2006.

Specialty-matched clinical peer review.

Revision History

Date	Revision
10/10/2025	Added moderate to severe rosacea as a covered indication
12/09/2019	Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new template