

## Varicose Vein Treatment

| POLICY NUMBER  | LAST REVIEW       |
|----------------|-------------------|
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## **Definitions**

Venous insufficiency is a condition caused by venous hypertension, especially by ambulating. Normally, one-way valves help to maintain blood flow toward the heart against the force of gravity; however, weakened valves do not close properly, thus permitting backward blood flow, a condition referred to as **reflux**. Veins with incompetent valves become elongated, rope-like, bulged and thickened. These vessels are known as **varicose veins** and are a direct result of increased pressure secondary to reflux. Greater saphenous vein (thigh vein) reflux, which leads to pooling in the visible varicose vein, is a common cause of varicose veins in the legs.

Treatment therapies include conservative therapies (i.e., compression stockings, pain medications, leg elevation and local heat applications) as well as surgical treatments directed toward correcting the reflux.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Varicose vein surgery or sclerotherapy during pregnancy is not usually appropriate because dilatation of veins in the legs is physiologic and will revert to normal after delivery, at which time a more accurate appraisal can be made.

# Table 1 – Allowable Procedures

| Cyanoacrylate embolization (CAE) ablation (aka cyanoacrylate superglue, n-butyl-cyanoacrylate) (e.g., VariClose Vein Sealing System, VenaSeal Closure System) | Minimally invasive, non-tumescent, non-thermal and non-sclerosant procedure that uses a medical adhesive to close the diseased vein in patients with symptomatic venous reflux.   |
|---|---|
| Endovenous chemical ablation (EVCA) (sclerotherapy)   | A process by which an irritating foam or liquid chemical is directly injected into the affected veins causing them to scar.  Sclerotherapy of spider veins (0–1 mm diameter) and small varicosities (< 4 mm) are generally considered cosmetic in nature.  Sclerotherapy of larger veins may be medically necessary as long as concomitant saphenous insufficiency, if present, has been treated.   |
| Microfoam Sclerotherapy (Varithena®)  | Percutaneous endovenous ablation using manufactured polidocanol microfoam (Varithena®) is injected into veins using ultrasound, displacing blood from the vein and destroying the endothelial lining, which is replaced by scar tissue. Treatment of spider veins (0–1 mm diameter) and small varicosities (< 4 mm) are generally considered cosmetic in nature.  Microfoam endovenous ablation (Varithena®) is indicated for the treatment of incompetent great saphenous veins, accessory saphenous veins, and visible varicosities of the great saphenous vein (GSV) system above and below the knee. In clinical trials, veins up to 25.9mm were treated. |
| Endovenous laser ablation of the saphenous vein (ELAS)  | A minimally invasive method by which the affected vein (usually the great saphenous vein of the thigh) is destroyed using laser energy delivered via a laser fiber inserted into the vein. ELAS is an alternative to saphenous vein stripping and is indicated when there is duplex-proven saphenous reflux unresponsive to conservative therapy.   |
| Endovenous mechanochemical ablation (MOCA) (ClariVein Infusion Catheter) (See Limitations/Exclusions)   | Non-thermal non-tumescent ablation technique, which incorporates the use of a flexible, steerable infusion catheter with a 360° rotatable dispersion wire. The wire tip causes minimal mechanical damage to the endothelium, inducing vasospasm, and the rotating tip evenly distributes a sclerosing agent to the targeted treatment area. After treatment, sealing of the vein is confirmed ultrasonically. Sclerosis of the vein activates the clotting system, resulting in formation of a thrombus and occlusion of the vessel.  Covered for Medicaid and Medicare members only  |
| Phlebectomy (surgical removal of non-<br>truncal varicose veins)  | Described by many terms, including ambulatory phlebectomy, Muller's Method, stab phlebectomy, and simply phlebectomy.  These are different terms, but they refer to the same essential procedure.   |
| Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) (Endoluminal radiofrequency thermal heating or radiofrequency endovenous occlusion, e.g., VNUS Closure®)                        | RFA has been used with or without ligation and division for treatment of incompetence of the saphenofemoral junction and varicosities of the great saphenous vein. A catheter delivers radiofrequency energy through a special electrode that causes controlled heating of the vessel wall, causing the vein to collapse and seal shut.   |
|   | The VNUS Closure® procedure is a treatment alternative to surgical stripping of the great saphenous vein and is considered a form of RFA. RFA is indicated when there is duplex-proven saphenous reflux unresponsive to conservative therapy.   |
| Excision and ligation or avulsion of varicosities   | One or more incisions are made over the varicose veins and the vein is excised and then either tied off (ligated) or, in the case of smaller varicosities, simply avulsed.  |

|  | Excision of varicosities is indicated for large symptomatic varicosities (> 4 mm diameter) unresponsive to conservative therapy (as long as concomitant saphenous insufficiency, if present, has been treated).  |
|--|--|
| Saphenous vein stripping and excision                | Incisions are made at the bottom (ankle end) and at the top (groin end) of the varicose vein. A thin wire-like instrument is inserted into the vein to strip the vein from the inside. Small incisions can also be made over the veins to remove them.   |
|  | In many cases, the saphenous vein may only be stripped from the groin to the knee or mid-calf instead of all the way to the ankle.   |
|  | Stripping of the saphenous veins is indicated when there is duplex-proven saphenous reflux unresponsive to conservative therapy.   |
| Subfascial endoscopic perforator vein surgery (SEPS) | SEPS is a minimally invasive procedure designed to interrupt incompetent perforator veins as a treatment of chronic venous insufficiency.  |
| (See Limitations/Exclusions)                         | Guided by Duplex ultrasound scanning, small incisions are made in the skin unaffected by the changes of severe chronic venous insufficiency. Using endoscopic techniques, the perforating veins are clipped or divided by endoscopic scissors.  Covered for Medicaid and Medicare members only   |
| Transilluminated powered phlebectomy                 | A minimally invasive type of ambulatory phlebectomy offered as an alternative  |
| (TPP/TIPP) aka TriVex procedure (TriVex™)            | to standard surgery for symptomatic varicosities of the leg.   |
|  | It is a 3-part procedure performed under general, regional, or local anesthesia, beginning with tumescent anesthesia to enhance visualization surrounding the varicose veins and to reduce operative discomfort.   |
|  | Tumescence anesthesia involves infusion of large amounts of saline mixed with lidocaine to reduce hemorrhage and epinephrine to delay absorption of lidocaine. Once adequate tumescent infiltration is achieved, the resector and illuminator are inserted and positioned underneath the skin through small (2-3 cm) incisions on either end of the varicosity. The tip of the resector follows the veins slowly to chop the veins and aspirate fragments. |
|  | Once removal of the affected vein(s) is complete, a second stage tumescent anesthesia is employed to minimize blood loss, reduce bruising and hematoma formation and to decrease post-operative pain.  |
|  | The incisions are then closed using surgical tape or similar closures, and the leg is wrapped.   |

## Guideline

Members are eligible for coverage of any of the procedures in <u>Table 1</u> when there is documented evidence of patency of the deep vein system and absence of occlusion or disease. (See Limitations/Exclusions)

All procedures require the following documentation:

- 1. Progress-note documentation of failed conservative measures.
- Venous Doppler or duplex ultrasound. (Pretreatment Doppler or duplex ultrasound examination must be performed for localization of sites of incompetence to allow individual treatment options and reduce the chance of reoccurrence.
- 3. Other documentation, as requested.

At least **one** of the following criteria must be met:

1. Recurrent episodes of superficial thrombophlebitis and/or persistent symptoms interfering with activities of daily living for ≥ 90 days.

- Symptoms may include aching, cramping, burning, itching and/or swelling during activity or prolonged after prolonged standing.
- 2. Occurrence of a single significant hemorrhage from a ruptured superficial varicosity, especially if a blood transfusion is required.
- 3. > 1 episode of minor hemorrhage from a ruptured superficial varicosity.
- 4. Intractable ulceration or infection secondary to venous stasis.

## Table 2 – Accessory Saphenous Veins

Treatment of accessory saphenous veins by surgery (ligation and stripping), RFA, laser ablation or microfoam endovenous ablation (Varithena) may be considered medically necessary for symptomatic varicose veins/venous insufficiency when **all** the following criteria are met:

- 1. The great or small saphenous veins had been previously eliminated (at least 3 months).
- 2. There is demonstrated accessory saphenous reflux time of > 500 msec.
- 3. There is documentation of  $\geq 1$  of the following indications:
  - a. Ulceration secondary to venous stasis that fails to respond to compressive therapy (no time limit).
  - b. Recurrent superficial thrombophlebitis that fails to respond to compressive therapy.
  - c. Hemorrhage or recurrent bleeding episodes from a ruptured superficial varicosity.
  - d. Persistent pain, swelling, itching, burning, or other symptoms are associated with saphenous reflux, and the symptoms significantly interfere with activities of daily living

#### **Notes**

- 1. Initial authorization for sclerotherapy will be for 3 sclerotherapy treatments (CPT 36471) per leg as medically necessary. If further sclerotherapy treatments are requested, then updated clinical information (post-treatment) will be necessary for review.
- 2. Coverage of laser and RFA is indicated for small/great saphenous veins and anterior/posterior accessory saphenous veins to improve symptoms attributable to saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal reflux when medical necessity criteria are met. (Maximum allowable vein diameters: ELAS 20mm; RFA 18mm)
- 3. There should be no aneurysm in the target segment.
- 4. Ultrasound guidance is not covered separately and is included in CPT codes 36465, 36466, 36475, 36476, 36478, and 36479.
- 5. One pre-operative Doppler ultrasound study or duplex scan will be covered.
- 6. One post-procedure Doppler ultrasound study or duplex scan will be covered.
  - The use of ultrasound guidance procedures during varicose vein surgery should not be billed separately; these CPT codes are 76937, 76942, 76998, 76999, 93965, 93970, 93971 and S2202. (Note: Intraoperative ultrasound is covered for Medicare members only)
- 7. Selective catheter placement (CPT 36011) is included in procedures used to treat the varicose veins.
- 8. A procedure performed on the same vessel, above and below the knee, is considered the same procedure if done within a 3-month period.

- 9. For ablations only a single date of service will be authorized per leg (i.e., all of the symptomatic axial veins in a single leg will be treated on one date of service). Only one primary ablation CPT code and one secondary ablation CPT code will be used to treat all of the axial veins in one leg.
- 10. Currently, a CPT code does not exist to describe the microfoam endovenous ablation procedure with ultrasound, therefore 37799 should be used with a crosswalk to 36475-36479, and 37765 with percutaneous endovenous ablation in box 19 or the electronic equivalent.

## **Limitations and Exclusions**

- 1. Endovenous mechanochemical ablation (MOCA) is considered investigational for Commercial members.
- 2. The following procedures are not considered medically necessary because they are regarded as cosmetic:
  - a. Injection of reticular veins, telangiectasia or visible subcuticular veins < 4 mm in size (e.g., spider veins, angiomata and hemangiomata). (CPT codes: 36468 and 36469)
  - b. Transdermal laser therapy and photodermal sclerosis.
- 3. Sclerotherapy for the great saphenous vein or varicose veins > 7 mm.
- Treatment of incompetent perforator veins. (Coverage exception presence of venous ulcer or history of venous ulcer to prevent recurrence)
- 5. All other procedure codes not listed in the Procedure Codes table.
- 6. Requests received for 2 procedures (occurring on the same day) will be reviewed in the same case, dependent on the LOMN, stating that the second procedure will be done within 14 days of the first procedure.

## **Procedure Codes**

| 36465  | Injection of non-compounded foam sclerosant with ultrasound compression maneuvers to guide dispersion of the injectate, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring; single incompetent extremity truncal vein (eg, great saphenous vein, accessory saphenous vein)   |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| 36466  | Injection of non-compounded foam sclerosant with ultrasound compression maneuvers to guide dispersion of the injectate, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring; multiple incompetent truncal veins (eg, great saphenou vein, accessory saphenous vein), same leg   |  |  |
| 36468  | Injection(s) of sclerosant for spider veins (telangiectasia), limb or trunk  |  |  |
| 36470  | Injection of sclerosant; single incompetent vein (other than telangiectasia)   |  |  |
| 36471  | Injection of sclerosing solution sclerosant; multiple incompetent veins, (other than telangiectasia), same leg   |  |  |
| 36473  | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, mechanochemical; first vein treated (Only covered for Medicaid and Medicare members)   |  |  |
| 36474  | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, mechanochemical; subsequent vein(s) treated in a single extremity, each through separate accessites (Lisa separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (Only covered for Medicaid and Medicare members) |  |  |
| 36475 Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monit percutaneous, radiofrequency; first vein treated |  |  |  |
| 36476  | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring percutaneous, radiofrequency; subsequent vein(s) treated in a single extremity, each through separate access  |  |  |

|       | (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| 36478 | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, laser; first vein treated  |  |
| 36479 | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, laser; subsequent vein(s) treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)  |  |
| 36482 | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, by transcatheter delivery of a chemical adhesive (eg cyanoacrylate) remote from the access site, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous; first vein treated  |  |
| 36483 | Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, by transcatheter delivery of a chemical adhesive (eg, cyanoacrylate) remote from the access site, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous; subsequent vein(s) treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |  |
| 37500 | Vascular endoscopy, surgical, with ligation of perforator veins, subfascial (SEPS) (Only covered for Medicaid and Medicare members)  |  |
| 37700 | Ligation and division of long saphenous vein at saphenofemoral junction, or distal interruptions   |  |
| 37718 | Ligation, division, and stripping, short saphenous vein  |  |
| 37722 | Ligation, division, and stripping, long (greater) saphenous veins from saphenofemoral junction to knee or below  |  |
| 37735 | Ligation and division and complete stripping of long or short saphenous veins with radical excision of ulcer and skin graft and/or interruption of communicating veins of lower leg, with excision of deep fascia  |  |
| 37760 | Ligation of perforator veins, subfascial, radical (Linton type), including skin graft, when performed, open,1 leg  |  |
| 37761 | Ligation of perforator vein(s), subfascial, open, including ultrasound guidance, when performed, 1 leg   |  |
| 37765 | Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, one extremity; 10-20 stab incisions  |  |
| 37766 | Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, one extremity; more than 20 incisions  |  |
| 37780 | Ligation and division of short saphenous vein at saphenopopliteal junction (separate procedure)  |  |
| 37785 | Ligation, division, and/or excision of varicose vein cluster(s), one leg   |  |
| 37799 | Unlisted procedure, vascular surgery   |  |
| 76942 | Ultrasonic guidance for needle placement (eg, biopsy, aspiration, injection, localization device), imaging supervision and interpretation  |  |
| 93970 | Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; complete bilateral study  |  |
| 93971 | Duplex scan of extremity veins including responses to compression and other maneuvers; unilateral or limited study   |  |
| S2202 | Echosclerotherapy (Commercial only)  |  |

# **ICD-10 Diagnoses**

| 180.00 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of unspecified lower extremity  |
|--------|---|
| 180.01 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of right lower extremity        |
| 180.02 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of left lower extremity         |
| 180.03 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of lower extremities, bilateral |

| 180.10  | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified femoral vein                                 |
|---------|--|
| 180.11  | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right femoral vein                                       |
| 180.12  | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left femoral vein  |
| 180.13  | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of femoral vein, bilateral                                  |
| 180.201 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of right lower extremity        |
| 180.202 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of left lower extremity         |
| 180.203 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of lower extremities, bilateral |
| 180.209 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified deep vessels of unspecified lower extremity  |
| 180.221 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right popliteal vein                                     |
| 180.222 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left popliteal vein                                      |
| 180.223 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of popliteal vein, bilateral                                |
| 180.229 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified popliteal vein                               |
| 180.231 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right tibial vein  |
| 180.232 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left tibial vein   |
| 180.233 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of tibial vein, bilateral                                   |
| 180.239 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified tibial vein                                  |
| 180.241 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right peroneal vein                                      |
| 180.242 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left peroneal vein                                       |
| 180.243 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of peroneal vein, bilateral                                 |
| 180.249 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified peroneal vein                                |
| 180.251 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right calf muscular vein                                 |
| 180.252 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of left calf muscular vein                                  |
| 180.253 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of calf muscular vein, bilateral                            |
| 180.259 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified calf muscular vein                           |
| 180.291 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of right lower extremity              |
| 180.292 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of left lower extremity               |
| 180.293 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of lower extremity, bilateral         |
| 180.299 | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of unspecified lower extremity        |
| 180.3   | Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities, unspecified                           |
| 183.001 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of thigh                          |
| 183.002 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of calf                           |
| 183.003 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of ankle                          |
| 183.004 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot               |
| 183.005 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot                |
| 183.008 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg           |
|         |  |

| 183.009 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site                                    |
|---------|---|
|         |   |
| I83.011 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of thigh   |
| I83.012 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of calf  |
| I83.013 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of ankle   |
| I83.014 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot  |
| I83.015 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot   |
| I83.018 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg                                      |
| I83.019 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site  |
| I83.021 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of thigh  |
| 183.022 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of calf   |
| 183.023 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of ankle  |
| 183.024 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot   |
| 183.025 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot  |
| 183.028 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg                                       |
| 183.029 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of unspecified site   |
| I83.10  | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with inflammation   |
| I83.11  | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with inflammation   |
| I83.12  | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with inflammation  |
| I83.201 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of thigh and inflammation                         |
| 183.202 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation                          |
| 183.203 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation                         |
| 183.204 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation              |
| 183.205 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation               |
| 183.208 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation |
| 183.209 | Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremity with both ulcer of unspecified site and inflammation              |
| I83.211 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of thigh and inflammation                               |
| I83.212 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation                                |
| I83.213 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation                               |
| I83.214 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation                    |
| I83.215 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation                     |
| I83.218 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation       |
| I83.219 | Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of unspecified site and inflammation                    |
| I83.221 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of thigh and inflammation                                |
| 183.222 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation                                 |
| 183.223 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation                                |

| 183.224       Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation         183.225       Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation         183.228       Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation         183.229       Varicose veins of left lower extremities with pain         183.811       Varicose veins of left lower extremities with pain         183.812       Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with pain         183.819       Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with pain         183.819       Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremities with pain         183.819       Varicose veins of pright lower extremities with other complications         183.891       Varicose veins of left lower extremities with other complications         183.892       Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with other complications         183.893       Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremities with other complications         187.2       Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral)         187.311       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of left lower extremity         187.312       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity         187.321       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with inflammation of left lower extremity </th <th></th> <th></th>   |         |  |
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| 183.228 Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation 183.229 Varicose veins of left lower extremities with pain 183.811 Varicose veins of right lower extremities with pain 183.812 Varicose veins of left lower extremities with pain 183.813 Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with pain 183.819 Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremities with pain 183.891 Varicose veins of right lower extremities with other complications 183.892 Varicose veins of left lower extremities with other complications 183.893 Varicose veins of left lower extremities with other complications 183.899 Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with other complications 187.2 Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral) 187.311 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of right lower extremity 187.312 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of left lower extremity 187.313 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity 187.314 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity 187.315 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity 187.321 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with inflammation of right lower extremity 187.322 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with inflammation of unspecified lower extremity 187.323 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with inflammation of unspecified lower extremity 187.331 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer and inflammation of right lower extremity 187.332 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer and inflammation of left lower extremity 187.333 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer and inflammation of unspecified lower extremity 187.333 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with other complications of right lower extremity 187.339 Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with other complications of right lower extremity 187.391 Chronic venous hypertensio | 183.224 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation              |
| 183.229       Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of unspecified site and inflammation         183.811       Varicose veins of right lower extremities with pain         183.812       Varicose veins of left lower extremities with pain         183.813       Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with pain         183.819       Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremities with other complications         183.891       Varicose veins of left lower extremities with other complications         183.892       Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with other complications         183.899       Varicose veins of unspecified lower extremities with other complications         187.2       Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral)         187.311       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of right lower extremity         187.312       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of left lower extremity         187.313       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer of unspecified lower extremity         187.321       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with inflammation of right lower extremity         187.322       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with inflammation of left lower extremity         187.333       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer and inflammation of left lower extremity         187.331       Chronic venous hypertension (idiopathic) with ulcer and inflammat  | 183.225 | Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation               |
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- 37. Specialty-matched clinical peer review.

## **Revision History**

| Company(ies)                 | DATE          | REVISION  |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| EmblemHealth                 | May 5, 2025   | Added Medicaid coverage of endovenous mechanochemical ablation and subfascial endoscopic perforator vein surgery  |
| ConnectiCare                 | Feb. 14, 2025 | Transferred policy content to individual company branded template   |
| EmblemHealth<br>ConnectiCare | Feb. 14, 2025 | Changed timeframe from 6 mos. to 90 days RE recurrent episodes of superficial thrombophlebitis and/or persistent symptoms interfering with activities of daily living   |
|                              |               | Removed 3 mo. trial of conservative non-operative treatment (leg elevation, compression stockings) as a prerequisite for procedures   |
|                              |               | Removed note stipulating that there should be no thrombosis that would interfere with intraluminal procedures   |
|                              |               | Removed note stipulating that sclerotherapy should not occur sooner than 3 mos. after an ablation procedure   |
|                              |               | Defined prerequisite accessory saphenous reflux time as > 500 msec  |
| ConnectiCare                 | May 17, 2024  | Added language pertaining to the rationale of a three-month waiting period prior to sclerotherapy (after an ablation procedure has been performed)  |
| ConnectiCare                 | May 13, 2022  | ConnectiCare adopts clinical criteria of its parent corporation EmblemHealth  |
| EmblemHealth                 | Mar. 11, 2022 | Added clarification note in Limitations/Exclusions communicating that sclerotherapy is medically necessary as an initial therapy when the clinical criteria in the policy are met, and that members are not required to undergo an ablation |

|              |               | procedure prior to sclerotherapy  |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| EmblemHealth | Feb. 12, 2021 | Removed prerequisite for submission of photo documentation  |
| EmblemHealth | Mar. 13, 2020 | Added Cyanoacrylate embolization ablation (medical adhesives) to list of approved procedures in Table 1 |
| EmblemHealth | Mar. 9, 2017  | Added MOCA coverage for Medicare members  |
| EmblemHealth | Mar. 23, 2017 | Clarified that photo submission not required for Medicare members                                       |
| EmblemHealth | Oct. 20, 2016 | Clarified Varithena definition and specified indications of usage                                       |
| EmblemHealth | Sept. 9, 2016 | Added sclerotherapy using foam (e.g., Varithena) as an option   |
| EmblemHealth | Aug. 12, 2016 | Maximum allowable vein diameter changed from 12mm to 18mm for RFA                                       |