

Chelation Therapy

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Definition

Chelation therapy reduces the accumulations of essential heavy metals, such as iron and copper, or nonessential metals, such as lead and aluminum, in overload patients. Chelators bind with heavy metal ions and enhance the urinary and fecal excretion of toxic metals. Standard indications include iron overload, lead poisoning, copper toxicity and aluminum overload.

Guideline

Members are eligible for coverage of chelation therapy for heavy metal toxicity and overload conditions for any of the following:

1. Aluminum overload in members on chronic hemodialysis
2. Biliary cirrhosis
3. Transfusion-dependent inherited hemoglobinopathies (e.g., hemochromatosis, sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, etc.)
4. Cystinuria
5. Wilson's disease

Documentation of heavy metal poisoning should include confirmation by whole-blood testing performed when the medical history or signs/symptoms are suggestive of heavy-metal exposure.

Limitations/Exclusions

The following are not considered medically necessary due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value:

1. Any diagnoses/clinical conditions not listed in the covered indications above (e.g., mercury toxicity from dental amalgam fillings, as well as non-overload and chronic/progressive conditions [too numerous to list]).
2. Toxicity screening when symptoms are poorly defined (e.g., dysphoria, fatigue, malaise, vague pain, etc.) and when the medical history is not suggestive of heavy metal exposure.
3. Off-label use/unapproved chelators.

Applicable Procedure Codes

J0470	Injection, dimercaprol, per 100 mg
J0600	Injection, edetate calcium disodium, up to 1,000 mg
J0895	Injection, deferoxamine mesylate, 500 mg
J3520	Edetate disodium, per 150 mg
M0300	IV chelation therapy (chemical endarterectomy) Note: Code has 0 RVUs and is not reimbursable
S9355	Home infusion therapy, chelation therapy; administrative services, professional pharmacy services, care coordination, and all necessary supplies and equipment (drugs and nursing visits coded separately), per diem

Applicable ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

D56.0	Alpha thalassemia
D56.1	Beta thalassemia
D56.2	Delta-beta thalassemia
D56.3	Thalassemia minor
D56.5	Hemoglobin E-beta thalassemia
D56.8	Other thalassemias
D56.9	Thalassemia, unspecified
D57.00	Hb-SS disease with crisis, unspecified
D57.01	Hb-SS disease with acute chest syndrome
D57.02	Hb-SS disease with splenic sequestration
D57.1	Sickle-cell disease without crisis
D57.20	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease without crisis
D57.211	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with acute chest syndrome
D57.212	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with splenic sequestration
D57.219	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with crisis, unspecified
D57.40	Sickle-cell thalassemia without crisis
D57.411	Sickle-cell thalassemia with acute chest syndrome
D57.412	Sickle-cell thalassemia with splenic sequestration
D57.419	Sickle-cell thalassemia with crisis, unspecified
D57.80	Other sickle-cell disorders without crisis
D57.811	Other sickle-cell disorders with acute chest syndrome
D57.812	Other sickle-cell disorders with splenic sequestration

D57.819	Other sickle-cell disorders with crisis, unspecified
D64.0	Hereditary sideroblastic anemia
D64.1	Secondary sideroblastic anemia due to disease
D64.2	Secondary sideroblastic anemia due to drugs and toxins
D64.3	Other sideroblastic anemias
E72.00	Disorders of amino-acid transport, unspecified
E72.01	Cystinuria
E72.02	Hartnup's disease
E72.03	Lowe's syndrome
E72.04	Cystinosis
E72.09	Other disorders of amino-acid transport
E83.00	Disorder of copper metabolism, unspecified
E83.01	Wilson's disease
E83.09	Other disorders of copper metabolism
E83.10	Disorder of iron metabolism, unspecified
E83.110	Hereditary hemochromatosis
E83.111	Hemochromatosis due to repeated red blood cell transfusions
E83.118	Other hemochromatosis
E83.119	Hemochromatosis, unspecified
E83.19	Other disorders of iron metabolism
K74.4	Secondary biliary cirrhosis
M1A.10x0	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified site, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.10x1	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified site, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1110	Lead-induced chronic gout, right shoulder, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1111	Lead-induced chronic gout, right shoulder, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1120	Lead-induced chronic gout, left shoulder, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1121	Lead-induced chronic gout, left shoulder, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1190	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified shoulder, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1191	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified shoulder, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1210	Lead-induced chronic gout, right elbow, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1211	Lead-induced chronic gout, right elbow, with tophus (tophi)

M1A.1220	Lead-induced chronic gout, left elbow, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1221	Lead-induced chronic gout, left elbow, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1290	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified elbow, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1291	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified elbow, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1310	Lead-induced chronic gout, right wrist, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1311	Lead-induced chronic gout, right wrist, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1320	Lead-induced chronic gout, left wrist, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1321	Lead-induced chronic gout, left wrist, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1390	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified wrist, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1391	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified wrist, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1410	Lead-induced chronic gout, right hand, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1411	Lead-induced chronic gout, right hand, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1420	Lead-induced chronic gout, left hand, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1421	Lead-induced chronic gout, left hand, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1490	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified hand, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1491	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified hand, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1510	Lead-induced chronic gout, right hip, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1511	Lead-induced chronic gout, right hip, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1520	Lead-induced chronic gout, left hip, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1521	Lead-induced chronic gout, left hip, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1590	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified hip, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1591	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified hip, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1610	Lead-induced chronic gout, right knee, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1611	Lead-induced chronic gout, right knee, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1620	Lead-induced chronic gout, left knee, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1621	Lead-induced chronic gout, left knee, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1690	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified knee, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1691	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified knee, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1710	Lead-induced chronic gout, right ankle and foot, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1711	Lead-induced chronic gout, right ankle and foot, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1720	Lead-induced chronic gout, left ankle and foot, without tophus (tophi)

M1A.1721	Lead-induced chronic gout, left ankle and foot, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.1790	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified ankle and foot, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.1791	Lead-induced chronic gout, unspecified ankle and foot, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.18x0	Lead-induced chronic gout, vertebrae, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.18x1	Lead-induced chronic gout, vertebrae, with tophus (tophi)
M1A.19x0	Lead-induced chronic gout, multiple sites, without tophus (tophi)
M1A.19x1	Lead-induced chronic gout, multiple sites, with tophus (tophi)
T45.4X1A	Poisoning by iron and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T45.4X2A	Poisoning by iron and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T45.4X3A	Poisoning by iron and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T45.4X4A	Poisoning by iron and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.0X1A	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.0X2A	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.0X3A	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T56.0X4A	Toxic effect of lead and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.1X1A	Toxic effect of mercury and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.1X2A	Toxic effect of mercury and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.1X3A	Toxic effect of mercury and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T56.1X4A	Toxic effect of mercury and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.2X1A	Toxic effect of chromium and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.2X2A	Toxic effect of chromium and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.2X3A	Toxic effect of chromium and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T56.2X4A	Toxic effect of chromium and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.4X1A	Toxic effect of copper and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.4X2A	Toxic effect of copper and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.4X3A	Toxic effect of copper and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T56.4X4A	Toxic effect of copper and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.5X1A	Toxic effect of zinc and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.5X2A	Toxic effect of zinc and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.5X3A	Toxic effect of zinc and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T56.5X4A	Toxic effect of zinc and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter

T56.6X1A	Toxic effect of tin and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.6X2A	Toxic effect of tin and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.6X3A	Toxic effect of tin and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T56.6X4A	Toxic effect of tin and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.811A	Toxic effect of thallium, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.812A	Toxic effect of thallium, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.813A	Toxic effect of thallium, assault, initial encounter
T56.814A	Toxic effect of thallium, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.891A	Toxic effect of other metals, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.892A	Toxic effect of other metals, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.893A	Toxic effect of other metals, assault, initial encounter
T56.894A	Toxic effect of other metals, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.91xA	Toxic effect of unspecified metal, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T56.92xA	Toxic effect of unspecified metal, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T56.93xA	Toxic effect of unspecified metal, assault, initial encounter
T56.94xA	Toxic effect of unspecified metal, undetermined, initial encounter
T57.0X1A	Toxic effect of arsenic and its compounds, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter
T57.0X2A	Toxic effect of arsenic and its compounds, intentional self-harm, initial encounter
T57.0X3A	Toxic effect of arsenic and its compounds, assault, initial encounter
T57.0X4A	Toxic effect of arsenic and its compounds, undetermined, initial encounter
Z77.011	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead

References

American Academy of Family Physicians. Chelation therapy. 2013. <http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/chelation-therapy.html>. Accessed February 22, 2017.

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