

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 30.7
TITLE: CHELATION THERAPY

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2)(iii)(xiv), (d)(3)(iii), and (g)(15)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 1, Section 11.3

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

October 12, 1984

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

90784

III. DESCRIPTION

The intravenous administration of chelation techniques for the therapeutic or preventive effects of removing unwanted metal ions from the body.

IV. POLICY

Chelation therapy (or chemical endarterectomy) using disodium edentate, (EDTA) is considered an experimental/investigational (unproven) therapeutic modality for the treatment of the following conditions, and is not covered:

1. multiple sclerosis;
2. arthritis;
3. hypoglycemia;
4. diabetes; or
5. arteriosclerosis.

V. EXCEPTIONS

A. Chelation therapy is covered only when administered in selected cases for the following conditions:

- toxicity;
1. control of ventricular arrhythmias or heart block associated with digitalis
 2. emergency treatment of hypercalcemia; or
 3. extreme conditions of metal toxicity. CHAMPVA accepts the level established by the Center for Disease Control.

B. Claims for the above listed conditions will be referred to medical review to establish that the severity of the patient's condition warranted the use of disodium edentate.

END OF POLICY