BENIGN SKIN LESION REMOVAL

Description

Skin lesions can be grouped into two categories: primary and secondary. Primary skin lesions are variations in color or texture that may be present at birth, such as moles or birthmarks, or that may be acquired during a person's lifetime, such as those associated with infectious diseases (e.g. warts, acne, or psoriasis), allergic reactions (e.g. hives or contact dermatitis), or environmental agents (e.g. sunburn, pressure, or temperature extremes). A secondary skin lesions are those changes in the skin that result from primary skin lesions, either as a natural progression or as a result of a person manipulating (e.g. scratching or picking at) a primary lesion.¹

Total Health Care (THC) considers requests for benign skin lesion removal on a case-by-case basis. THC approves benefit coverage for this procedure only for select medical conditions when medical necessity is established and criteria are satisfied.

Administrative Criteria

1. THC’s Medical Director must prior approve
2. A referral from member’s PCP is required along with supporting medical documentation
3. Supporting medical documentation must include member’s history, size of the lesion, location, current symptoms along with duration and severity, and treatment(s) to date with results ²
4. Requested service must be determined to be medically necessary and not for cosmetic purposes (solely for the purpose of altering appearance or self-esteem)
5. A dermatology or plastic surgery consultation is required ⁴
6. Medical documentation must demonstrate sustained clinical improvement is the expected outcome with elimination of reoccurrence
7. Member must have current eligibility on date of service
8. Procedure must be ordered, arranged, and performed by a THC contracted provider
9. Photograph (preferably color) of lesion(s) to be removed

Clinical Criteria

1. Biopsy or clinical appearance suggests or indicative of pre-malignancy or malignancy²; or
2. Due to its anatomic location, the lesion has been subject to recurrent trauma; or
3. Medical documentation supports skin lesion(s) are causing symptoms such as bleeding, burning, intense itching, irritation, or change in color or size²,³; or
4. Skin lesion has evidence of inflammation; or
5. Skin lesion is infectious (e.g., warts); or
6. Skin lesion restricts vision or obstructs a body orifice².

Bibliography

¹ medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Skin+Lesions
² aetna.com/cbp/medical/data/600_699/0633.html
³ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, Policy, removal_of_skin_lesions_and_scars

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