IMPLANTABLE HORMONE PELLETS

**Description**
Hormone pellets are a form of testosterone replacement therapy that uses implantable pellets (Testopel) to treat certain conditions in men. The pellets are placed subcutaneous which slowly release the hormone for a long acting androgenic effect.

THC considers requests for Implantable Hormone Pellets on a case-by-case basis when submitted documentation demonstrates medical necessity and clinical decision criteria is satisfied. THC utilizes criteria derived from evidenced based medicine and nationally accepted Standards of Care. Additional factors taken into consideration during the clinical review process include (not all inclusive) \(^{(1)}\):

- a. Age
- b. Pertinent past and current medical history
- c. Current treatment and progress
- d. Individual need
- e. Local Delivery System
- f. Psychosocial factors/home environment (when applicable)

**Decision Criteria**

**Administrative**
1. Referral by Primary Care Physician along with appropriate supporting medical documentation
2. Services must be performed by a Total Health Care affiliated or contracted physician, hospital, or other provider
3. Prior authorization by Plan’s Medical Director

**Clinical** \(^{(1,2,3)}\)

**Testosterone:**
1. As second line testosterone replacement therapy in males with congenital or acquired endogenous androgen absence or deficiency associated with primary or secondary hypogonadism when oral, intra-muscular, or topical testosterone replacement therapy is ineffective or inappropriate.

2. For treatment of delayed male puberty.
Exclusions

1. Implantable testosterone pellets are considered experimental/investigational for all other indications as their effectiveness for indications other than the ones listed above have not been established.\(^1,2,3\)

2. Implantable estradiol pellets or any other implantable pellets consisting of estrogen alone, estrogen combined with testosterone, or testosterone alone, are considered experimental/investigational for hormone replacement therapy in women. There are currently no FDA approved, commercially available formulations of implantable estradiol pellets available in the United States.\(^2\)

Bibliography

3. nih.govhttp://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=a1741a0b-3d4c-42dc-880d-a06e96c9ef