MEDICAL INDICATIONS FOR PULSED DYE LASER TREATMENT

DESCRIPTION
Pulsed dye laser delivers energy at a wavelength and duration that has been optimized for the selective treatment of vascular lesions. It is used in the treatment of warts, port wine stains, hemangiomas, hypertrophic scars, and telangiectasias. Pulsed dye lasers have been used as an alternative to surgical excision or carbon dioxide laser.

The pulsed-dye laser has been shown to be effective in treating glomangiomas in the face and neck, as surgical excision may not be practical in these cosmetically sensitive areas.

Requests for pulsed dye laser treatment is considered on a case-by-case basis, and is generally considered cosmetic in nature UNLESS specific administrative and medical necessity criteria are met.

DECISION CRITERIA

Administrative

1. Referral required from member’s PCP along with supporting documentation. This shall include: (at minimum)
   a. member’s name and THC plan number
   b. proposed date of procedure, facility, name, applicable diagnostic and procedure codes
   c. name and contact information of surgeon or requesting provider
   d. progress notes that includes member’s current and past medical history, treatment to date and response; appropriate diagnostic tests results
   e. Photographs of affected area(s)-highly recommended

2. Services must be performed by a Plan affiliated or contracted provider, if not, then plan approval of treating provider & facility

3. Medical necessity review and prior approval

4. Services must not be considered cosmetic in nature

5. Member must have current eligibility on date of service

6. Must not have been recently treated with isotretinoin (Accutane)
Clinical

1. Treatment is for verruca (warts) when conventional therapy such as topical chemotherapy, curettage, electrodesiccation, and cryotherapy have failed (must have documented proof of failed treatment. Conventional treatment must be at least 6 months in duration)
2. Port wine stains and other hemangiomas when lesions are located on the face and neck
3. Ulcerative lesions with hamangiomas that are superficial or moderately deep and during the proliferative and or involutional phase.
4. Keloids or other hypertrophic scars which are secondary to an injury or surgical procedure that:
   a. results in significant functional impairment or;
   b. causes significant pain requiring chronic analgesic medications
5. Multiple superficially located glomangiomas in the face and neck, where surgical excision is not practical
6. Pyogenic granuloma in the face and neck
7. Lesion(s) must not be of the following nature:
   a. telangectasis
   b. spider angiomata
   c. hair for pseudofolliculitis barbae or follicular cysts
   d. rosacea
   e. active acne
   f. morphea (scleroderma of the skin)
   g. hidradenitis suppurative
   h. pilonidal disease


2 Laser Surgery; University of Pennsylvania Health System; Encyclopedia; “Cosmetic Services-Skin, Cancer, General”; [http://pennhealth.com/ency/article/002958.htm](http://pennhealth.com/ency/article/002958.htm), Pages 1-2; accessed 08/01/07.

3 Treatment of Various Lesions; [http://dermsurgery.uams.edu/hemangiomas/treatment.htm](http://dermsurgery.uams.edu/hemangiomas/treatment.htm), accessed 08/01/07