

## INSERTION, NON-BIODEGRADABLE DRUG DELIVERY IMPLANT TO REPORT JOINT OR OPHTHALMALOGIC SPACERS OR PROSTHESIS

Policy # 71

Implementation Date: 11/1/16

Revision Dates:

### Disclaimer:

1. Policies are subject to change without notice.
2. Policies outline coverage determinations for SelectHealth Commercial, SelectHealth Advantage (Medicare), and SelectHealth Community Care (Medicaid) plans. Refer to the "Policy" section for more information.

### Description

Code 11981 (Insertion of non-biodegradable drug delivery implant), is by definition, only for delivery of drugs via a non-biodegradable drug delivery implant system (not absorbed into the patient's body that will require eventual removal). CPT® Assistant articles cite insertion of a single-rod implantable contraceptive as an example for correct usage. Additional articles instruct 11981 should not be used in addition to any code that already includes in their description prosthetics, components, spacers, or drug delivery systems (e.g., 27487, 27488, 67027). Providers are being instructed to use this code to report biodegradable uses such as implantation of antibiotic beads; mixing antibiotic powder into the cement used with spacers or antibiotic impregnated prosthetics. The LCD states implantation of antibiotic beads is a service for which there is no specific CPT code and lists implantation of antibiotic beads as a service that is a component of another service and never separately billable to the Contractor or to the Patient.

### Commercial Plan Policy

SelectHealth follows CMS policy in considering the use of 11981 for insertion of biodegradable antibiotic beads, pellets, slivers, or antibiotic powder, added into the cement used to secure prosthetics or spacers, part of the bigger procedure and will not allow separate reimbursement. SelectHealth will cover a HCPCS Level II "J" code reported for supply of antibiotics.

### SelectHealth Advantage (Medicare/CMS)

SelectHealth Advantage **will follow CMS policy.**

### SelectHealth Community Care (Medicaid)

SelectHealth Community Care **will follow CMS policy.**

### Key References

1. *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)*, (2017) – American Medical Association
2. *CPT® Assistant*; April 2011 p. 12 Coding Consultation Q & A; December 2007 Bonus Feature pp. 10-179
3. <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx?from2=search1.asp&> or the manual website

### Disclaimer

This document is for informational purposes only and should not be relied on in the diagnosis and care of individual patients. Medical and Coding/Reimbursement policies do not constitute medical advice, plan preauthorization, certification, an explanation of benefits, or a contract. Members should consult with appropriate healthcare providers to obtain needed medical advice, care, and treatment. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the member's individual benefit plan that is in effect at the time services are rendered.

The codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this policy are included for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

SelectHealth makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information cited or relied upon in this policy. SelectHealth updates its Coverage Policies regularly, and reserves the right to amend these policies without notice to healthcare providers or SelectHealth members. Claims will be reviewed based on current policy language at time of review.

Members may contact Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member ID card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Coverage Policy may call SelectHealth Provider Relations at 801-442-3692.

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