

# Policy Key: Hyperhidrosis

## TriWest Clinical Operations – TRICARE West

### SCOPE

This Policy Key provides criteria to be used in medical necessity review for treatment of Hyperhidrosis.

### NOT COVERED

- Treatment for causes of secondary hyperhidrosis. [1]
- Psychotherapy and hypnosis [1]

### COVERAGE CRITERIA

#### Botulinum Toxin A/Dysport [6]

- **Initial Level of Review** refer to Botulinum Toxins Policy Key for review criteria

#### Iontophoresis

- **Initial Level of Review** may approve for intractable, primary focal hyperhidrosis when **ALL** of the following are met: [2]
  - Unresponsive or unable to tolerate oral medications for excessive sweating (e.g., anti-cholinergic, beta-blockers or benzodiazepines).
  - Significant functional impairment (social or professional).
  - Topical aluminum chloride or extra strength anti-perspirants are not effective or cause a severe rash.

#### Surgical Treatments [1,5]

- **Medical Director** may approve any of the surgical treatments listed below if **ALL** the following are met:
  - Severe primary hyperhidrosis when appropriate oral and/or topical pharmacological therapies have failed.
  - Significant functional impairment (social or professional).
  - Inadequate response to iontophoresis

**Note:** A trial of botulinum toxin can be substituted for iontophoresis in predominantly axillary hyperhidrosis.
- Surgical treatments:
  - Chemical thoracic sympathectomy
  - Clipping of the thoracic sympathetic chain
  - Endoscopic sympathetic ablation by electrocautery
  - Endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy
  - Excision of axillary sweat glands

- Lumbar sympathectomy
- Open thoracic sympathectomy
- Thoracoscopic sympathectomy
- Tumescent or ultrasonic liposuction for axillary hyperhidrosis
- Video-assisted endoscopic thoracic ganglionectomy
- Video-assisted thoracic sympathectomy

## DEFINITIONS

**Iontophoresis** – Iontophoresis is the process of passing a weak electrical current through the skin. The area to be treated is placed into water. A gentle current of electricity passes through the water. A technician carefully and gradually increases the electrical current until you feel a light tingling sensation. How iontophoresis works is not exactly known. It is thought that the process somehow plugs the sweat glands and temporarily prevents you from sweating. Iontophoresis units are also available for home use. [4]

**Primary Focal Hyperhidrosis** – Focal hyperhidrosis is a chronic skin condition. A genetic change (mutation) causes this condition. You can inherit it from your biological family. This is the most common type of hyperhidrosis. It usually affects your armpits, hands, feet and face. It tends to start before age 25. [3]

**Secondary generalized hyperhidrosis** – Generalized hyperhidrosis is excessive sweating caused by an underlying medical condition or it's a side effect of a medication. Some examples include diabetes and Parkinson's disease and medications, such as naproxen. Generalized hyperhidrosis may cause you to sweat while sleeping. [3]

## CODES

CPT 32664

HCPCS J0585

## REFERENCES

[1] TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.63-M, April 2021, Change 17, (September 20, 2024), Chapter 4, Section 8.1, Respiratory System, [https://manuals.health.mil/pages/DisplayManualHtmlFile/2024-09-20/AsOf/TPT5/C4S8\\_1.html](https://manuals.health.mil/pages/DisplayManualHtmlFile/2024-09-20/AsOf/TPT5/C4S8_1.html)

[2] Aetna Clinical Policy Bulletins, Iontophoresis, Retrieved June 5, 2024, [https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/200\\_299/0229.html](https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/200_299/0229.html)

[3] Cleveland Clinic, Retrieved June 5, 2024, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/17113-hyperhidrosis>

[4] Medline Plus, Retrieved June 5, 2024 <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007293.htm#:~:text=Iontophoresis%20is%20the%20process%20of,sweating%20by%20blocking%20sweat%20glands>

[5] Aetna, Clinical Policy Bulletins, Hyperhidrosis, Retrieved July 19, 2024, [https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/500\\_599/0504.html](https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/500_599/0504.html)



[6] Aetna, Clinical Policy Bulletins, Botulinum Toxin, Retrieved July 19, 2024,  
[https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/100\\_199/0113.html](https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/100_199/0113.html)