

Post-operative Sinus Endoscopy and/or Debridement Procedures

Date of Origin: 09/2019

Last Review Date: 09/25/2024

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

Dates Reviewed: 09/2019, 09/2020, 09/2021, 08/2022, 09/2023, 09/2024

Developed By: Medical Necessity Criteria Committee

I. Description

Endoscopic sinus surgery is a procedure designed to open the natural drainage pathways of the sinuses to restore their function and health. It is often used for patients with acute or chronic rhinosinusitis when medical treatment has been unsuccessful. In chronic sinusitis, the sinuses are unable to drain adequately due to inflammation of the narrow drainage pathways. This results in nasal secretions that can become trapped in the sinuses and become chronically infected.

Post-operative debridement is a crucial aspect optimizing results in endoscopic sinus surgery. It is a measure suggested to help patients recover. Debridements are suggested to be an essential part of maintaining sinus ostium patency, reducing pooling of mucus, preventing infection, and critical to long term success. Debridement of the sinus cavity is a procedure performed following endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS). The procedure involves transnasal insertion of the endoscope for visualization and parallel insertion of various instruments for the purpose of removal of postsurgical crusting, residua of dissolvable spacers, coagulum, early synechiae, or devitalized bone or mucosa. It may also be used to remove crusts or debris in patients with longstanding chronic sinusitis with persistent sinonasal inflammation who have undergone sinus surgery in the past. It is performed under local or general anesthesia in a suitable office space or operating room.

II. Criteria:

- A. Moda Health considers medically necessary **up to 3** post-operative nasal endoscopies with debridement after sinus surgery or sinus surgery combined with nasal surgery within the six weeks following surgery
- B. Moda Health considers NOT medically necessary additional debridement procedures within the six weeks following the sinus surgery other than those indicated in II. A
- C. Moda Health considers NOT medically necessary any debridement procedures performed outside of the six week post-operative period, unless there are well documented clinical situations that warrant their need. Additional debridement would be considered for any of the following (not an inclusive list);
 - a. Allergic mucin
 - b. Lateralized middle turbinate with ostial obstruction
 - c. Persistent crusting
 - d. Recurrent polyps
 - e. Retained fungal material
 - f. Synechiae obstructing sinus ostia

D. Moda health considers NOT medically necessary post-operative nasal endoscopy with debridement after nasal surgery such as septoplasty, turbinectomy etc

III. Information Submitted with the Prior Authorization Request:

IV. CPT or HCPC codes covered:

Codes	Description
31231	Nasal endoscopy, diagnostic, unilateral or bilateral (separate procedure)
31237	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with biopsy, polypectomy or debridement (separate procedure)
S2342	Nasal endoscopy for postoperative debridement following functional endoscopic sinus surgery, nasal and/or sinus cavity (s), unilateral or bilateral
Modifier 58	Staged or related procedure of Service by the same physician during the postoperative period: The physician may need to indicate that the performance of a procedure or service during the postoperative period was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Planned or anticipated b) More extensive than the original procedure c) For therapy following a diagnostic surgical procedure The circumstance may be reported by adding the modifier 58 to the staged or related procedure.

V. Annual Review History

Review Date	Revisions	Effective Date
09/2019	New criteria	01/01/2020
09/2020	Annual Review: No change	10/01/2020
09/2021	Annual Review: No changes	10/01/2021
08/2022	Annual Review: No changes	09/01/2022
09/2023	Annual Review: Grammar updates	10/01/2023
09/2024	Annual Review: No changes	10/1/2024

VI. References

1. Position statement: Debridement of the sinus cavity after endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS). <https://www.entnet.org/content/position-statement-debridement-sinus-cavity-after-ess>
2. Tzelnick, S., Alkan, U, Leshno, M., Hwang, P. & Soudry, E, 2018. Sinonasal debridement versus no debridement for the postoperative care of patients undergoing endoscopic sinus surgery. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD011988.pub2/epdf/abstract>

- Ramakrishnan, V. J., & Suh, J. D. 2010. How necessary are postoperative debridements after endoscopic sinus surgery? Laryngoscope; The American Laryngological Rhinological and Ontological Society, Inc

Appendix 1 – Applicable Diagnosis Codes:

Codes	Description

Appendix 2 – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Medicare coverage for outpatient (Part B) drugs is outlined in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Pub. 100-2), Chapter 15, §50 Drugs and Biologicals. In addition, National Coverage Determination (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. They can be found at: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search/advanced-search.aspx>. Additional indications may be covered at the discretion of the health plan.

Medicare Part B Covered Diagnosis Codes (applicable to existing NCD/LCD):

Jurisdiction(s): 5, 8	NCD/LCD Document (s):

NCD/LCD Document (s):

Medicare Part B Administrative Contractor (MAC) Jurisdictions		
Jurisdiction	Applicable State/US Territory	Contractor
F (2 & 3)	AK, WA, OR, ID, ND, SD, MT, WY, UT, AZ	Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC