Ketamine for Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders and Pain Management
Policy Number: PG0409
Last Review: 09/27/2018

GUIDELINES
This policy does not certify benefits or authorization of benefits, which is designated by each individual policyholder contract. Paramount applies coding edits to all medical claims through coding logic software to evaluate the accuracy and adherence to accepted national standards. This guideline is solely for explaining correct procedure reporting and does not imply coverage and reimbursement.

SCOPE
X Professional
_ Facility

DESCRIPTION
Ketamine is a rapid-acting anesthetic drug that is FDA-approved for diagnostic and surgical procedures that do not require skeletal muscle relaxation, for the induction of anesthesia prior to the administration of other general anesthetic agents, and to supplement low-potency agents, such as nitrous oxide. Common adverse effects include hypertension, tachycardia and psychiatric signs and symptoms. Ketamine can also produce a transient respiratory depression, and should be used by or under the direction of physicians experienced in administering procedural anesthetics. Ketamine is manufactured in liquid form or as a crystallized powder for reconstitution into a liquid. It is usually administered parentally (intravenous, subcutaneous or intramuscular) but can be administered orally (liquid or pill form), sublingually, or intra-nasally (spray or powder).

Ketamine has been safely used for the induction and maintenance of general anesthesia and procedural sedation for many years. The mechanism of action through which ketamine exerts its antidepressant effects is not fully understood. It has the potential to cause marked changes acutely in cognitive function and psychological wellbeing. Ketamine is increasingly being used for off label treatment of psychiatric conditions including treatment-refractory unipolar major depression. Ketamine hydrochloride is also increasingly being used for chronic pain management. Use of Ketamine for the treatment of psychiatric disorders and for chronic pain management is an off label use and not an FDA-approved treatment.

POLICY
Ketamine (J3490) to treat any psychiatric disorders, chronic pain, or migraine headaches is non-covered.

COVERAGE CRITERIA
HMO, PPO, Individual Marketplace, Elite/ProMedica Medicare Plan, Advantage
Ketamine is investigational, and therefore not proven or medically necessary for:
- Psychiatric disorders (including, but not limited to depression, bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, suicidal cognition, & posttraumatic stress disorder)
- Chronic pain (including but not limited to nonmalignant pain, Fibromyalgia, neuropathic pain, post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy)
- Migraine headaches (including, but not limited to chronic daily headaches, and cluster headaches)

Adjunctive ketamine in electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is considered experimental and investigational because the effectiveness of this approach has not been established.
Use of ketamine for the induction of anesthesia or for conscious sedation for minor surgical procedures that do not require skeletal muscle relaxation is considered medically necessary.

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION
The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage. Codes that are covered may have selection criteria that must be met. Payment for supplies may be included in payment for other services rendered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS CODE</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J3490</td>
<td>Unclassified drugs</td>
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REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION

**ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/22/2017**

09/22/17: Policy created to reflect most current clinical evidence per The Technology Assessment Working Group (TAWG).

09/27/18: Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per The Technology Assessment Working Group (TAWG).

12/28/2020: Medical policy placed on the new Paramount Medical policy format

REFERENCES/RESOURCES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services
Ohio Department of Medicaid
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets
Industry Standard Review
Hayes, Inc.