**MEDICAL MANAGEMENT POLICY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE: Elastomeric Pain Pumps (On-Q and others)</th>
<th>POLICY NUMBER: MEMD-236-2013</th>
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<td>EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/26/12</td>
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**INDICATIONS:** The elastomeric pain pumps (On-Q, and others) have been studied for use in the post operative state to control the need for intravenous narcotic analgesics and in an attempt to decrease the length of stay in the hospital. Catheters are cannulated under the skin surrounding the incision and the pump is attached and dispenses a measured dose of local anesthetic over the first 24 to 48 hours after surgery. The medical literature has small, randomized studies that indicate that the elastomeric pump infiltration of local anesthetic around the operative wound site may be beneficial in pain control and overall use of narcotic analgesics. There is no evidence that the use of these pumps reduces the length of stay or the cost of care, however. Theoretically, the elastomeric pump could be used at any post operative wound site.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS AND RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Contraindications would be allergy or sensitivity to the anesthetic or pump and catheter components.

**POLICY:** MHealth follows Medicare rules governing the use and payment for the elastomeric pain pump. As such, the “placement and management of the pumps by the surgeon is included in the global component of the surgical procedure code and is not separately payable per the CMS Internet Only Manual (IOM), Publication 100-4.”

**PROCESS:**

The member or provider must:

1. Contact the Customer Service Department to verify eligibility/benefits.
2. Contact Medical Management to initiate a pre-authorization.
3. Provide clinical information which supports the medical necessity of the requested service.

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1 Internet Only Manual (IOM) *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 40.1

This medical policy is not a guarantee of benefits or coverage, nor should it be deemed as medical advice. In the event of any conflict concerning benefit coverage, the employer/member summary plan document (SPD) supersedes this medical policy.