Botulinum Toxin is a neurotoxic protein produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. It is one of the most poisonous naturally occurring substances in the world. Though it is highly toxic, it is used in minute doses both to treat painful muscle spasms, and as a standard form of cosmetic treatment. Because Botulinum Toxins are invasive their use should be reserved for patients in whom a diagnosis has been established with reasonable certainty.

Coverage Criteria

Routine Mississippi Medicaid benefits will be paid toward the following conditions:

Botulinum Toxin A

- Facial Spasm
- Blepharospasm
- Hemifacial Spasm
- Cervical Dystonia (Torticollis)
- Spasmodic Dysphonia
- Strabismus
- Nystagmus
- Focal hand dystonia (Writers' Cramp)
- Chronic anal fissure refractory to conservative treatment
- Esophageal achalasia patients in whom surgical treatment is not indicated
- Frey's syndrome
- Hyperhidrosis
- Spasticity (to reduce spasticity or excessive muscular contractions to relieve pain; to assist in posturing and walking; to allow better range of motion; to permit better physical therapy; to reduce severe spasm in order to provide adequate hygiene); and
- Spasticity in Cerebral Palsy

Botulinum Toxin B

- Cervical dystonia (torticollis).

Botulinum Toxin B received FDA approval in December 2000 for, "...the treatment of patients with cervical dystonia to reduce the severity of abnormal head position and neck pain associated with cervical dystonia." Botulinum Toxin B has not received approval for other indications.

Limitations

Providers are only allowed to bill Medicaid for one injection per each functional muscle group/anatomical site regardless of the number of injections made into each group/site or the number of muscles that comprise the functional group.

Exclusions

Botulinum toxin treatment will not be covered for beneficiaries to manage the following conditions:

- chronic paralytic strabismus, except to reduce antagonist contractor in conjunction with surgical repair
- strabismus, when angles are over 50 prism diopters;
- restrictive strabismus;
- Duane's syndrome with lateral rectus weakness; or
- secondary strabismus caused by prior surgical over-recession of the antagonist.

Treatment for cosmetic reasons such as craniofacial wrinkles is not covered by Mississippi Medicaid.

Botulinum toxin treatment is contraindicated for patients receiving aminoglycosides. Therefore Mississippi Medicaid will not cover the drug for patients with such contraindications.

Documentation Requirements

Documentation must be maintained in the patient's record that includes the following elements:

- support for the medical necessity of the Botulinum Toxin injections,
- a covered diagnosis,
- dosage and frequency of the injections,
- documentation of quantity of discarded portion of drug,
- support for the medical necessity of electromyography procedures, if applicable,
- support the clinical effectiveness for subsequent injections if needed, and
- identify the functional muscle group/anatomical site(s) injected