

# **FUTURE Local Coverage Article: Coding Article for Sclerotherapy and Endovenous Non-Thermal Treatment of Varicose Veins (A56268)**

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Implementation of this Article is being delayed. This Article will not become effective on 05/07/2019. Please watch our website at Novitas-solutions.com for updates regarding this Article. This update first displayed on the MCD on 05/02/2019. From 01/31/2019 through 04/03/2019 this Article displayed on the MCD with an Original Effective Date of 03/21/2019. The new Original Effective Date is 05/07/2019. The new Original Effective Date first displayed on the MCD on 4/4/2019.

**Please Note: Future Effective Date.**

## **Contractor Information**

<b>CONTRACTOR NAME</b>	<b>CONTRACT TYPE</b>	<b>CONTRACT NUMBER</b>	<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>STATE(S)</b>
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04111 - MAC A	J - H	Colorado
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04112 - MAC B	J - H	Colorado
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04211 - MAC A	J - H	New Mexico
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04212 - MAC B	J - H	New Mexico
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04311 - MAC A	J - H	Oklahoma
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04312 - MAC B	J - H	Oklahoma
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04411 - MAC A	J - H	Texas
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04412 - MAC B	J - H	Texas
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	04911 - MAC A	J - H	Colorado New Mexico Oklahoma Texas
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	07101 - MAC A	J - H	Arkansas
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	07102 - MAC B	J - H	Arkansas
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	07201 - MAC A	J - H	Louisiana
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	07202 - MAC B	J - H	Louisiana
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	07301 - MAC A	J - H	Mississippi
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	07302 - MAC B	J - H	Mississippi
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12101 - MAC A	J - L	Delaware
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12102 - MAC B	J - L	Delaware
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12201 - MAC A	J - L	District of Columbia

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12202 - MAC B	J - L	District of Columbia
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12301 - MAC A	J - L	Maryland
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12302 - MAC B	J - L	Maryland
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12401 - MAC A	J - L	New Jersey
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12402 - MAC B	J - L	New Jersey
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12501 - MAC A	J - L	Pennsylvania
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12502 - MAC B	J - L	Pennsylvania
Novitas Solutions, Inc.	A and B MAC	12901 - MAC A	J - L	District of Columbia Delaware Maryland New Jersey Pennsylvania

## Article Information

### General Information

**Article ID**

A56268

**Original Effective Date**

05/07/2019

**Article Title**

Coding Article for Sclerotherapy and Endovenous Non-Thermal Treatment of Varicose Veins

**Revision Effective Date**

05/07/2019

**AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement**

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**Revision Ending Date**

N/A

**Retirement Date**

N/A

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## Article Guidance

### Article Text:

Medicare reimbursement for sclerotherapy treatment of varicose veins is limited to the treatment of symptomatic veins. Please refer to the Novitas Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L37796, Sclerotherapy and Endovenous Non-Thermal Treatment of Varicose Veins for reasonable and necessary requirements to support coverage.

Claims must be submitted with an ICD-10-CM code that represents the reason the procedure was done.

### Coding Guidance:

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 37241 and 37242 became available in 2014. Since that time incorrect coding has increased for the treatment of varicose veins. CPT codes 37241 and 37242 are used to report vascular embolization or occlusion procedures for venous conditions other than hemorrhage or hemodialysis access (e.g., venous malformations, visceral varices, capillary hemangiomas, varicoceles). This CPT code description includes parenthetical notes to clarify that **it is not appropriate to report CPT code 37241-37242 for the ablation/sclerotherapy procedures for venous insufficiency/telangiectasia of the extremities/skin, which are reported using CPT codes 36468, 36470, and 36471.**

- Sclerotherapy or delivery of a sclerosing agent via catheter with or without a dispersion element does not constitute venous embolization (CPT code 37241-37242) and should not be coded as such.
- CPT code 37241-37242 shall not be used to describe treatment of symptomatic varicose veins as defined by Novitas LCD L37796, Sclerotherapy and Endovenous Non-Thermal Treatment of Varicose Veins. The procedures in LCD L37796 are not venous embolization procedures and should not be reported as CPT code 37241-37242.
- Consistent with CPT guidelines, it is inappropriate to report CPT Code 37241-37242 for sclerosis or endovenous ablation of varicose veins.
- It is inappropriate to report CPT codes 36465, 36466, 36468, 36470, 36471, 36473, 36474, 36482, or 36483 with CPT code 37241 in the same surgical field, which would include anywhere in the same extremity a symptomatic varicose vein is treated. Sclerotherapy should be reported using CPT codes 36470 or 36471.

CPT code 36468 should be reported for the treatment of symptomatic spider veins/telangiectasia in the lower extremities by injection of sclerosing agents; it is reported once per limb regardless of the number of injections required to complete the procedure. The practice expense for this procedure includes accessing the vein, any anesthesia used, injection of contrast, fluoroscopy, ultrasound and the injection of the sclerosing agent. Therefore, it is inappropriate to report any of these services in addition to CPT code 36468.

In 2018, the American Medical Association (AMA) revised and added CPT codes to distinguish between compounded and non-compounded sclerosant. Per the AMA CPT Manual, compounding is "a practice in which a qualified health care professional (eg, pharmacist, physician) combines, mixes, or alters ingredients of a drug to create a medication tailored to the needs of an individual patient."

Per CPT Assistant, December 2018 (Volume 28 Issue 12), CPT code 36470 or 36471 is used to report non-compounded foam sclerotherapy, compounded foam sclerotherapy, and non-foam sclerotherapy of saphenous tributaries (branch veins) and perforators. CPT code 36470 or 36471 should be reported for treatment of **lower extremity symptomatic varicosities or varicose veins other than spider veins/telangiectasia** by injection of a sclerosant. CPT code 36471 is to be reported only once per extremity, regardless of the number of veins treated for the service.

The practice expense for CPT codes 36468, 36470 and 36471 contains reimbursement for dressings including multi-layer compression wrap(s), medications, sclerosing agents and solutions, catheters, introducers, or devices to facilitate preparation or delivery of sclerosing agents used in conjunction with CPT codes 36468, 36470 and 36471 and are not separately billable to the Medicare program.

Prior to 2018, vascular treatments involving the use of chemical adhesive and non-compounded foam sclerosant were reported with CPT code 37799. Beginning January 1, 2018, endovenous ablation with a chemical adhesive is reported using CPT codes 36482 and 36483 and injection of non-compounded foam sclerotherapy into extremity truncal vein(s) is reported with CPT codes 36465 and 36466.

Injections of non-compounded foam sclerosant (e.g., Varithena™) into an extremity truncal vein with ultrasound guided compression should be reported with CPT code 36465 or 36466. Ultrasound guidance and monitoring are included in CPT codes 36465 and 36466 and are not separately reportable.

Technology utilizing a proprietary "infusion catheter system with delivery enhanced by the use of a rotating dispersion wire at the distal end, designed to mix and disperse the infused fluid in the blood stream and on the vessel wall" with Federal Drug Administration Premarket Approval notification as "substantially equivalent" to several named predicate infusion catheters (Trellis® Infusion System and Slip-Cath®), ClariVein® Infusion Catheter, (ClariVein®-IC), has been introduced and marketed as an alternative to standard ablative therapy directed towards venous closure (e.g., endovenous laser ablation [EVLA], radiofrequency ablation [RFA]). This procedure delivers liquid sclerosing agent to the vein via a catheter and does not utilize radiofrequency, laser or heat ablative therapy. This service is appropriately reported as CPT code 36473 or 36474.

CPT codes 36473, 36474, 36482, or 36483 include all supplies, equipment, and imaging guidance when utilized. Therefore it is inappropriate to report any imaging guidance in addition to these services. All necessary supplies (including application of compression dressings) or equipment are not to be reported separately.

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## Coding Information

<b>Bill Type Codes:</b>
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Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
012x	Hospital Inpatient (Medicare Part B only)
013x	Hospital Outpatient
083x	Ambulatory Surgery Center
085x	Critical Access Hospital

### Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

**Note:** The contractor has identified the Bill Type and Revenue Codes applicable for use with the CPT/HCPCS codes included in this article. Providers are reminded that not all CPT/HCPCS codes listed can be billed with all Bill Type and/or Revenue Codes listed. CPT/HCPCS codes are required to be billed with specific Bill Type and Revenue Codes. Providers are encouraged to refer to the CMS Internet-Only Manual (IOM) Pub. 100-04, *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, for further guidance

CODE	DESCRIPTION
036X	Operating Room Services - General Classification
049X	Ambulatory Surgical Care - General Classification
0510	Clinic - General Classification
0761	Specialty Services - Treatment Room

### CPT/HCPCS Codes

#### Group 1 Paragraph:

N/A

#### Group 1 Codes:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
36470	Njx sclrsnt 1 incmptnt vein
36471	Njx sclrsnt mlt incmptnt vn

**Group 2 Paragraph:**

The following CPT codes are non-covered.

**Group 2 Codes:**

CODE	DESCRIPTION
36465	Njx noncmpnd sclrsnt 1 vein
36466	Njx noncmpnd sclrsnt mlt vn
36468	Njx sclrsnt spider veins
36473	Endovenous mchnchem 1st vein
36474	Endovenous mchnchem add-on
36482	Endoven ther chem adhes 1st
36483	Endoven ther chem adhes sbsq

**ICD-10 Codes that are Covered****Group 1 Paragraph:**

It is the provider's responsibility to select codes carried out to the highest level of specificity and selected from the ICD-10-CM code book appropriate to the year in which the service is rendered for the claim(s) submitted.

Medicare is establishing the following limited coverage for CPT codes 36470 and 36471:

**Group 1 Codes:**

ICD-10 CODE	DESCRIPTION
I80.01	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of right lower extremity
I80.02	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of left lower extremity
I80.03	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of lower extremities, bilateral
I83.012	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of calf
I83.013	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of ankle
I83.014	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot
I83.015	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot
I83.018	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg
I83.022	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of calf
I83.023	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of ankle
I83.024	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer of heel and midfoot
I83.025	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer other part of foot

ICD-10 CODE	DESCRIPTION
I83.028	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with ulcer other part of lower leg
I83.11	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with inflammation
I83.12	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with inflammation
I83.212	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation
I83.213	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation
I83.214	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation
I83.215	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation
I83.218	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation
I83.222	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of calf and inflammation
I83.223	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of ankle and inflammation
I83.224	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of heel and midfoot and inflammation
I83.225	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer other part of foot and inflammation
I83.228	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with both ulcer of other part of lower extremity and inflammation
I83.811	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with pain
I83.812	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with pain
I83.813	Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with pain
I83.891	Varicose veins of right lower extremity with other complications
I83.892	Varicose veins of left lower extremity with other complications
I83.893	Varicose veins of bilateral lower extremities with other complications
R58	Hemorrhage, not elsewhere classified

#### ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered

N/A

## Revision History Information

N/A

# Associated Documents

## **Related Local Coverage Document(s)**

LCD(s)

L37796 - Sclerotherapy and Endovenous Non-Thermal Treatment of Varicose Veins

## **Related National Coverage Document(s)**

N/A

## **Statutory Requirements URL(s)**

N/A

## **Rules and Regulations URL(s)**

N/A

## **CMS Manual Explanations URL(s)**

N/A

## **Other URL(s)**

N/A

## **Public Version(s)**

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# Keywords

N/A