



## Medical Policy Reference Manual Medical Policy

### 7.01.008 Vascular Angioscopy of Noncoronary Vessels

Original MPC Approval: 04/01/1998  
Last Review: 01/01/2023  
Last Revision: 01/01/2023

#### **Description**

Vascular angioscopy is the use of a tiny fiberoptic catheter for direct visualization of the interior of blood vessels. It has been used to confirm angiographic findings, identify areas of vessel dissection, assess a surgical anastomosis during a revascularization, evaluate a vein for adequacy in use as a graft, as an adjunct to in situ bypass, or to assess the adequacy of an embolectomy or atherectomy.

#### **Policy**

Vascular angioscopy of non-coronary vessels is considered **not medically necessary**.

#### **Policy Guidelines**

##### **Rationale:**

Angioscopy of non-coronary vascular procedures is not supported by the literature and therefore is not considered medically necessary. Additionally, available research indicates that vascular angioscopy in coronary vessels is not supported by the literature as a useful tool; accordingly, vascular angioscopy of coronary vessels is not considered medically necessary.

##### **Update 2022:**

A search of the peer-reviewed literature was performed from November 2016 through September 2022. Findings in the research are limited and there is a scarcity of recent peer reviewed literature regarding the use of vascular angioscopy. Per Medical Director's decision the Policy statement was changed from "Vascular angioscopy of non-coronary vessels is considered medically necessary" to "Vascular angioscopy of non-coronary vessels is considered not medically necessary."

##### **Update 2016:**

A search of the peer-reviewed literature was performed from October 2014 through November 2016. There is a scarcity of recent peer-reviewed literature regarding the use of vascular angioscopy in coronary vessels. However, vascular angioscopy is commonly used by cardiologists to visualize stents and is included in coronary procedures if utilized.

##### **Update 2014:**

A search of the peer-reviewed literature was performed from August 2012 through September 2014. There is a scarcity of recent peer-reviewed literature regarding the use of vascular angioscopy in coronary vessels. Therefore, the policy remains unchanged.

##### **Update 2012:**

A review of the peer-reviewed literature was performed from August 2010 through July 2012. Findings in the literature do not change the indications for use of vascular angioscopy in the current policy. Therefore, the policy remains unchanged.

##### **Update 2010:**

A search of the peer-reviewed literature was performed through July 2010. Although vascular angioscopy is used in procedures of the non-coronary vessels, findings in the literature are limited regarding the use of angioscopy in coronary vessels. Therefore, the policy remains unchanged.

#### Update 2008:

A review of the peer-reviewed literature was performed from June 2006 through June 2008. Findings in the literature do not change the indications for use of vascular angiography in the current policy. Therefore, the policy remains unchanged.

### **Benefit Applications**

There are no Benefit Application guidelines for this Medical Policy

### **Provider Guidelines**

There are no Provider Guidelines for this Medical Policy.

### **Cross References to Related Policies and Procedures**

There are no Related Policies for this Medical Policy

### **References**

**The following were among the resources reviewed and considered in developing this policy. By reviewing and considering the resources, CareFirst does not in any way endorse the contents thereof nor assume any liability or responsibility in connection therewith. The opinions and conclusions of the authors of these resources are their own and may or may not be in agreement with those of CareFirst.**

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