

# Medical Policy



## Northwood

### Speech Aid/Artificial Larynx

#### Description

Artificial larynx and electronic speech aids are devices used for individuals who have had a laryngectomy or whose larynx is permanently inoperative.

#### Policy

Electronic speech aids and artificial larynx devices are considered **medically necessary** for members who meet coverage criteria.

#### Policy Guidelines

Coverage Criteria:

1. Must be ordered by the member's treating practitioner.
2. Member has had a laryngectomy or whose larynx is permanently inoperative.

#### HCPCS Level II Codes and Description

L8500	Artificial Larynx, any type
L8501	Tracheostomy speaking valve
L8505	Artificial larynx replacement battery/accessory, any type
L8507	Tracheo-esophageal voice prosthesis, patient inserted, any type, each
L8509	Tracheo-esophageal voice prosthesis, inserted by a licensed health care provider, any type
L8510	Voice amplifier
L8511	Insert for indwelling tracheoesophageal prosthesis, with or without valve, replacement only, each
L8512	Gelatin capsules or equivalent, for use with tracheoesophageal voice prosthesis, replacement only, per 10
L8513	Cleaning device used with tracheoesophageal voice prosthesis, pipet, brush, or equal, replacement only, each
L8514	Tracheoesophageal puncture dilator, replacement only, each
L8515	Gelatin capsule, application device for use with tracheoesophageal voice prosthesis, each

#### Important Note:

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable

## Medical Policy



### Speech Aid/Artificial Larynx

and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Northwood follows all CMS National coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), as applicable.

#### References

1. Cigna: Devices for Voice Rehabilitation Following Total Laryngectomy  
Last accessed/reviewed November 20, 2023.
2. National Coverage Determination (NCD) Electronic Speech Aids 50.2  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=237>  
Last accessed and reviewed 11/20/23.

## Medical Policy



### Speech Aid/Artificial Larynx

3. American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts and Figures 2010. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2010. Accessed Aug 12, 2010. Available at URL address: [http://www.cancer.org/docroot/STT/stt\\_0.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/STT/stt_0.asp)
4. Chone CT, Gripp, FM, Spina, AL, Crespo AN. Primary versus secondary tracheoesophageal puncture for speech rehabilitation in total laryngectomy: long-term results with indwelling voice prosthesis. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2005 Jul;133(1):89-93.
5. Crary MA, Carnaby GD. In: DeVita, VT, Hellman S, Rosenberg SA, editors. Rehabilitation after treatment for head and neck cancer. *Cancer: Principles & Practice*, 7th ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005.
6. Gluckman JL, Farrell ML, Kelly DH. Vocal rehabilitation following total laryngectomy. In: *Otolaryngology: head and neck surgery*, 3rd ed. New York: Mosby; 1998. P. 2285-2297.
7. Hilgers JM, van den Brekel MWM. Vocal and speech rehabilitation following laryngectomy. In: Flint: Cummings *Otolaryngology: head and neck surgery*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Mosby, an imprint of Elsevier; 2010.
8. Kasperbauer JL, Thomas JE. Voice rehabilitation after near-total laryngectomy. *Otolaryngol Clin North Am.* 2004 Jun;37(3):655-77.
9. Koch WM. Total laryngectomy with tracheoesophageal conduit. *Otolaryngol Clin North Am.* 2002 Oct;35(5):1081-96.
10. Lombard L. Laryngectomy rehabilitation. eMedicine. Updated 2008 Nov 6. Accessed Aug 12, 2010. Available at URL address: <http://www.emedicine.com/ent/topic312.htm>
11. Melfi RS, Garrison SJ. Communication disorders. eMedicine. 2008 Apr 23. Accessed Aug 12, 2010. Available at URL address: <http://www.emedicine.com/pmr/TOPIC153.HTM>
12. Mendenhall WM, Morris CG, Stringer SP, Amdur RJ, Hinerman RW, Villaret DG, Robbins KT. Voice rehabilitation after total laryngectomy and postoperative radiation therapy. *J Clin Oncol.* 2002 May 15;20(10):2500-5.
13. Pou AM. Tracheoesophageal voice restoration with total laryngectomy. *Otolaryngol Clin North Am.* 2004 Jun;37(3):531-45.

# Medical Policy



## Speech Aid/Artificial Larynx

14. Rassekh CH, Haughey BH. Total laryngectomy and laryngopharyngectomy. In: Flint: Cummings Otolaryngology: head and neck surgery, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Mosby, an imprint of Elsevier; 2010.
15. Singer MI. The development of successful tracheoesophageal voice restoration. Otolaryngol Clin North Am. 2004 Jun;37(3):507-17.
16. Stafford FW. Current indications and complications of tracheoesophageal puncture for voice restoration after laryngectomy. Curr Opin Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2003 Apr;11(2):89-95.
17. Terada T, Saeki N, Toh K, Uwa N, Sagawa K, Takayasu S, Sakagami M. Voice rehabilitation with Provox2 voice prosthesis following total laryngectomy for laryngeal and hypopharyngeal carcinoma. Auris Nasus Larynx. 2007 Mar;34(1):65-71. Epub 2006 Nov 29.

### Change/Authorization History

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Prepared / Reviewed by	Approved by	Review Date:	Effective Date:
A	11-20-06	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnoli	Ken Fasse	n/a	
01		Annual Review – no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2008	
02	12-22-09	Annual Review/ no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2009	
03	12-03-10	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec2010	
04	07-20-11	Added Important Note to all Medical Policies	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
05	12-08-11	Annual Review. Added References to Policy	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec. 2011	
06	04-04-12	Added reference to NH Medicaid	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
07	12-3-12	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec 12	

# Medical Policy



## Speech Aid/Artificial Larynx

08	12-11-13	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
09	11-25-14	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
10	11-24-15	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	November 2015	
11	11-17-16	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	November 2016	
12	11-17-17	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2017	
13	11-19-18	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2018	
14	11-13-19	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2019	November 2019
15	11-09-20	Annual Review. Changed 'physician' to 'practitioner'.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2020	
16	11-29-21	Annual Review. Added NCD, LCD verbiage to "Important Notes".	Carol Dimech/Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 29, 2021,	
17	11-16-22	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-16-22	11-16-22
18	11-20-23	Annual review. Added NCD coverage reference.	Susan Glomb/Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-20-23	11-20-23