

CIGNA MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICIES - MUSCULOSKELETAL

CMM-313: Hip Replacement/Arthroplasty

Effective Date: March 7, 2026



Instructions for use

The following coverage policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna. Coverage policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard Cigna benefit plans and are used by medical directors and other health care professionals in making medical necessity and other coverage determinations. Please note the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these coverage policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the coverage policy. In the absence of federal or state coverage mandates, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of:

1. The terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service
2. Any applicable laws and regulations
3. Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies
4. The specific facts of the particular situation

Coverage policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines.

This evidence-based medical coverage policy has been developed by EviCore, Inc. Some information in this coverage policy may not apply to all benefit plans administered by Cigna.

These guidelines include procedures EviCore does not review for Cigna. Please refer to the [Cigna CPT code list](#) for the current list of high-tech imaging procedures that EviCore reviews for Cigna.

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Definitions

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Hip Arthroplasty	an orthopaedic surgical procedure during which the articular surface of the hip joint is replaced, remodeled, or realigned.
Hip Replacement	a form of arthroplasty that includes the surgical replacement of the hip joint with a prosthesis.
Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty (HRA) (also called metal-on-metal [MoM] hip resurfacing and hemi-resurfacing arthroplasty)	a surgical technique that involves the removal of diseased cartilage and bone from the head of the femur, and the replacement of the surface of the femoral head with a metal hemisphere that fits into a metal acetabular cup or into the acetabulum respectively. The technique conserves femoral bone and maintains normal femoral loading and stresses. Because of bone conservation, it may not compromise future total hip replacements. Hip resurfacing arthroplasty has been promoted as an alternative to total hip replacement for younger individuals. Hip resurfacing arthroplasty may be either a partial HRA (i.e., hemi-hip resurfacing, hemi-resurfacing or femoral head resurfacing arthroplasty [FHRA]) or a total HRA.
Non-Surgical Management (with regard to the treatment of lower extremity joint pain)	any provider-directed non-surgical treatment, which has been demonstrated in the scientific literature as efficacious and/or is considered reasonable care in the treatment of lower extremity joint pain. The types of treatment involved can include, but are not limited to, the following: relative rest/activity modification; weight loss; supervised physiotherapy modalities and therapeutic exercises; prescription and non-prescription medications; assistive devices; and/or, intra-articular injections.
Partial Hip Replacement (also called hip hemi-arthroplasty)	a surgical technique where only the femoral head (the ball) of the damaged hip joint is replaced. The acetabulum (the socket) is not replaced.

Prosthesis	an artificial device used to replace a structural element within a joint to improve and enhance function.
Total Hip Replacement	a surgical technique that involves the removal of the damaged hip joint which is then replaced with an artificial prosthesis composed of two or three different components: 1) the head that replaces the original femoral head; 2) the femoral component (a metal stem placed into the femur); and, 3) the acetabular component that is implanted into the acetabulum. The stem may be secured using bone cement or press-fit for the bone to grow into it.
Revision of Hip Replacement (Partial or Total)	surgical reconstruction or replacement due to failure or complications of previous hip replacement.
Tönnis Classification System	a commonly used system to describe the presence of osteoarthritis in the hips on plain X-rays with grading as follows: • Grade 0: no signs of osteoarthritis • Grade 1: sclerosis of the joint with slight joint space narrowing and osteophyte formation, and no or slight loss of femoral head sphericity • Grade 2: small cysts in the femoral head or acetabulum with moderate joint space narrowing and moderate loss of femoral head sphericity • Grade 3: large cysts in the femoral head or acetabulum, severe joint space narrowing or obliteration of the joint space, and severe deformity and loss of femoral head sphericity

General Guidelines

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General Guidelines

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Application of Guideline

- The determination of medical necessity for the performance of hip resurfacing and hip replacement (partial or total) is always made on a case-by-case basis.
- Until the scientific literature is more definitive, the type of bearing surface (e.g., metal-on-metal; ceramic-on-ceramic; metal-on-polyethylene) should be determined by the treating surgeon and the individual following a frank discussion explaining the pros and cons of each bearing surface.
- For individuals with significant medical conditions or comorbidities, the risk/benefit of hip arthroplasty procedures should be clearly documented in the medical record.
- For non-resurfacing and non-replacement treatment of avascular necrosis of the femoral head refer to **CMM-314: Hip Surgery – Arthroscopic and Open Procedures**.
- For the advanced imaging indications prior to hip resurfacing and hip replacement surgery refer to **MS-12: Osteoarthritis** and **MS-24: Hip**.
- For advanced imaging indications following hip replacement surgery refer to **MS-16: Post-Operative Joint Replacement Surgery** and **MS-24: Hip**.

Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all individuals; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age. Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include the following: safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination, and violence; education, job opportunities, and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty

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Partial Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty Indications

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Partial hip resurfacing arthroplasty is considered **medically necessary** when ALL of the following criteria have been met:

- Age is ≤64 years
- Imaging shows EITHER of the following findings:
 - osteoarthritis primarily affecting the femoral head with joint space narrowing on weight-bearing radiographs
 - avascular necrosis of the femoral head and there is less than 50% involvement of the femoral head
- Symptoms include BOTH of the following:
 - function-limiting pain at short distances (e.g., walking less than one-quarter mile, limiting activity to two city blocks, the equivalent to walking the length of a shopping mall) for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Three (3) months of function-limiting pain is not required when the medical record clearly documents why provider-directed non-surgical management is inappropriate (e.g., collapse of the femoral head, inflammatory arthritis, advanced dysplasia)
 - loss of hip function which interferes with the ability to carry out age-appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Provider-directed non-surgical management may be inappropriate. The medical record must clearly document why provider-directed non-surgical management is not appropriate (e.g., collapse of the femoral head, inflammatory arthritis, advanced dysplasia).
 - **Note:** It is incumbent on the surgeon to preoperatively optimize reasonably modifiable medical and behavioral health comorbidities.

Partial Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty

Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Partial hip resurfacing arthroplasty is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication, condition, or when ANY of the following are present:
 - osteoarthritis affecting BOTH the femoral head and the acetabulum with joint space narrowing on weight-bearing radiographs
 - inflammatory arthritis affecting BOTH the femoral head and the acetabulum on weight-bearing radiographs
 - avascular necrosis of the femoral head with greater than 50% involvement of the femoral head
 - skeletal immaturity
 - active local or systemic infection
 - vascular insufficiency, significant muscular atrophy of the leg, or neuromuscular disease severe enough to compromise implant stability or post-operative recovery
 - Charcot joint

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Total Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty Indications

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Total hip resurfacing arthroplasty is considered **medically necessary** when ALL of the following criteria have been met:

- Age is ≤64 years
- Imaging shows EITHER of the following findings:
 - osteoarthritis or an inflammatory arthritis affecting BOTH the femoral head and the acetabulum with joint space narrowing on weight-bearing radiographs
 - avascular necrosis of the femoral head with possible acetabular surface involvement and there is less than 50% involvement of the femoral head
- Symptoms include BOTH of the following:
 - function-limiting pain at short distances (e.g., walking less than one-quarter mile, limiting activity to two city blocks, the equivalent to walking the length of a shopping mall) for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Three (3) months of function-limiting pain is not required when the medical record clearly documents why provider-directed non-surgical management is inappropriate (e.g., collapse of the femoral head, inflammatory arthritis, advanced dysplasia).
 - loss of hip function which interferes with the ability to carry out age-appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Provider-directed non-surgical management may be inappropriate. The medical record must clearly document why provider-directed non-surgical management is not appropriate (e.g., collapse of the femoral head, inflammatory arthritis, advanced dysplasia).
 - **Note:** It is incumbent on the surgeon to preoperatively optimize reasonably modifiable medical and behavioral health comorbidities.

Total Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Total hip resurfacing arthroplasty is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication, condition, or when ANY of the following are present:
 - avascular necrosis of the femoral head with greater than 50% involvement of the femoral head
 - skeletal immaturity
 - active local or systemic infection
 - vascular insufficiency, significant muscular atrophy of the leg, or neuromuscular disease severe enough to compromise implant stability or post-operative recovery
 - Charcot joint
 - individuals undergoing dialysis

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Hip Replacement

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Partial Hip Replacement Indications

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Partial hip replacement is considered **medically necessary** for ANY of the following conditions when ALL of the associated criteria have been met:

Femoral Head/Neck Fracture

- Imaging shows a fracture of the femoral head or femoral neck.
- Conservative management or surgical fixation is not considered a reasonable option.

Avascular Necrosis (AVN)

- Imaging shows avascular necrosis with collapse of the femoral head.
- Symptoms include BOTH of the following:
 - function-limiting pain at short distances (e.g., walking less than one-quarter mile, limiting activity to two city blocks, the equivalent to walking the length of a shopping mall) for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Three (3) months of function-limiting pain is not required when the medical record clearly documents why provider-directed non-surgical management is inappropriate.
 - loss of hip function which interferes with the ability to carry out age-appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Provider-directed non-surgical management may be inappropriate. The medical record must clearly document why provider-directed non-surgical management is not appropriate.
 - **Note:** It is incumbent on the surgeon to preoperatively optimize reasonably modifiable medical and behavioral health comorbidities.

Partial Hip Replacement Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Partial hip replacement is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication, condition, or when ANY of the following are present:
 - active local or systemic infection
 - vascular insufficiency, significant muscular atrophy of the leg, or neuromuscular disease severe enough to compromise implant stability or post-operative recovery
 - Charcot joint
 - inflammatory arthritis affecting BOTH the femoral head and the acetabulum

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Total Hip Replacement Indications

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Total hip replacement is considered **medically necessary** for ANY of the following conditions when ALL of the associated criteria have been met:

Femoral Head/Neck Fracture

- Imaging shows a fracture of the femoral head or femoral neck.
- Conservative management or surgical fixation is not considered a reasonable option.

Osteoarthritis, Avascular Necrosis (AVN), Inflammatory Arthritis

- Imaging shows ANY of the following findings:
 - Tönnis Grade 2 - 3 osteoarthritis
 - avascular necrosis with collapse of the femoral head
 - inflammatory arthritis affecting BOTH the femoral head and the acetabulum with joint space narrowing
- Symptoms include BOTH of the following:
 - function-limiting pain at short distances (e.g., walking less than one-quarter mile, limiting activity to two city blocks, the equivalent to walking the length of a shopping mall) for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Three (3) months of function-limiting pain is not required when the medical record clearly documents why provider-directed non-surgical management is inappropriate.
 - loss of hip function which interferes with the ability to carry out age-appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months duration
 - **Criteria exception:** Three (3) months of provider-directed non-surgical management is not required when the medical record clearly documents why provider-directed non-surgical management is inappropriate
 - **Note:** It is incumbent on the surgeon to preoperatively optimize reasonably modifiable medical and behavioral health comorbidities.

Three (3) months of provider-directed non-surgical management is not required

Total Hip Replacement Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Total hip replacement is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication, condition, or when ANY of the following are present:
 - active local or systemic infection
 - vascular insufficiency, significant muscular atrophy of the leg, or neuromuscular disease severe enough to compromise implant stability or post-operative recovery
 - individuals undergoing dialysis

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Revision of Hip Replacement

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Revision of Hip Replacement (Partial or Total) Indications

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Revision of hip replacement is considered **medically necessary** for an individual who has previously undergone a partial or total hip replacement when ANY of the following post-operative conditions are present:

- recurrent prosthetic dislocation/subluxation that is unresponsive to provider-directed non-surgical management
- aseptic loosening
- periprosthetic joint infection
- periprosthetic fracture
- instability of the implant (e.g., disassembly, modular neck failure)
- leg length discrepancy
- osteolysis without eccentric wear (wear of elevated rim liner without wear superiorly)
- elevated serum metal levels as diagnosis for adverse local tissue reaction (ALTR) secondary to corrosion
- Symptoms include function-limiting pain at short distances (e.g., walking less than one-quarter mile, limiting activity to two city blocks, the equivalent to walking the length of a shopping mall) that is unexplained, greater than six (6) months duration, and is unresponsive to provider-directed non-surgical management.

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Revision of Hip Replacement (Partial or Total) Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Revision of hip replacement is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication or condition.

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Isolated Head and Polyethylene Liner Exchange (IPE) Indications

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Isolated head and polyethylene liner exchange (IPE) is considered **medically necessary** for ANY of the following post-operative conditions when ALL of the associated criteria have been met

- Eccentric polyethylene wear (with or without osteolysis):
 - Individual is symptomatic.
 - well-fixed implants in acceptable position
- Acute post-operative joint infection (periprosthetic or hematogenous) with well-fixed implants
- Dislocation/Instability:
 - Procedure includes BOTH of the following:
 - conversion to a liner with higher offset, larger head size, dual-mobility, constrained liner
 - conversion of failed metal-on-metal (MoM) or ceramic-on-ceramic (CoC) bearing surface to metal-on-polyethylene (MoP) or ceramic-on-polyethylene (CoP) bearing surface

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Isolated Head and Polyethylene Liner Exchange (IPE) Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Isolated head and polyethylene liner exchange (IPE) is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication or condition.

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Salvage Procedures Indications

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Salvage procedures (e.g., Girdlestone acetabuloplasty, hip joint arthrodesis) are considered **medically necessary** when performed as a surgical alternative in certain individuals for whom primary hip replacement or revision of hip replacement is not a reasonable surgical option due to ANY of the following conditions:

- chronic infection, osteomyelitis, or persistent periprosthetic joint infection
- individual is non-ambulatory or has a pre-existing ambulatory dysfunction
- presence of comorbidities or diseases which would preclude the performance of a successful hip replacement
- inadequate bone stock (e.g., severe osteoporosis or following tumor resection when there is insufficient bone remaining to support a joint replacement)
- recurrent instability/dislocation of the replaced hip
- aseptic loosening of the replaced hip with no other practical surgical options
- inability to pursue a successful reimplantation

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Salvage Procedures Non-Indications

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Not Medically Necessary

- Salvage procedures are considered **not medically necessary** for ANY other indication or condition.

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CMM-313: Hip Replacement/Arthroplasty

Codes (CMM-313)

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The inclusion of any code in this table does not imply that the code is under management or requires prior authorization. Refer to the applicable health plan for management details. Prior authorization of a code listed in this table is not a guarantee of payment. The Certificate of Coverage or Evidence of Coverage policy outlines the terms and conditions of the member's health insurance policy.

Code	Code Description/Definition
27125	Hemiarthroplasty, hip, partial (e.g. femoral stem prosthesis, bipolar arthroplasty)
27130	Arthroplasty, acetabular and proximal femoral prosthetic replacement (total hip arthroplasty), with or without autograft or allograft
27132	Conversion of previous hip surgery to total hip arthroplasty, with or without autograft or allograft
27134	Revision of total hip arthroplasty; both components, with or without autograft or allograft
27137	Revision of total hip arthroplasty; acetabular component only, with or without autograft or allograft
27138	Revision of total hip arthroplasty; femoral component only, with or without allograft

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Evidence Discussion (CMM-313)

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Hip Replacement/Arthroplasty

Hip replacement surgery is an effective treatment when non-surgical means do not provide adequate relief of osteoarthritic pain. However, there are risks to hip replacement surgery which include, but are not limited to, the following: infection; neurovascular injury; fracture; instability; prosthetic failure; deep vein thrombosis; pulmonary embolus; and, death.⁸⁶ Because of the risk of these significant complications, proper patient selection is critical to minimize the risk benefit ratio.

Hip osteoarthritis can be treated with a variety of methods to manage pain and improve function. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) has developed clinical practice guidelines and appropriate use criteria (AUC) for the management of hip osteoarthritis to guide both nonsurgical and surgical treatment and to provide risk assessment tools to help ensure individuals receive treatment that is appropriate, safe, and effective.^{49,83} Conservative treatment is recommended for multiple clinical scenarios by the AAOS in *Appropriate Use Criteria: Osteoarthritis of the Hip: Management*.⁷ The AAOS treatment recommendations in the AUC are based on multiple variables including, but not limited to, ambulatory capacity and radiographic severity of osteoarthritis.⁷ The duration of provider-directed non-surgical management allows for preoperative optimization of reasonably modifiable medical and behavioral health comorbidities.³⁸

Hip resurfacing arthroplasty conserves bone and may have better functional outcomes than total hip arthroplasty (THA), but THA is superior in terms of implant survival. Hip resurfacing is supported for individuals age 64 years or younger.^{68,95}

In certain individuals wherein the risk of surgery far outweighs the benefit and surgery is contraindicated, hip replacement surgery has been shown to have unacceptably high rates of failure, increased morbidity, and increased mortality.⁴⁵ The literature has documented higher complication rates in individuals with active local or systemic infection.^{46,82} Higher complications rates are seen in individuals undergoing renal dialysis and it has been recommended that individuals undergoing dialysis who are on a transplant list should await arthroplasty until transplant has taken place.^{25,26,31,51,52,56,59,61,81,94}

After the primary procedure, revision hip replacement surgery may be necessary for a variety of reasons both in the short term and long term. Revision surgery is associated with an increased risk of complications which can be minimized by proper patient selection and optimization prior to the primary procedure as well as the revision

procedure.^{8,50,55,99} The *American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR): 2023 Annual Report* indicated the most common diagnoses for all hip revisions were infection, mechanical complications, instability, aseptic loosening, pain, fracture and osteolysis.⁸

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