



## NHS MEDICAL POLICY

### Seton Placement Procedure 2014-017

**Seton placement to treat an anorectal fistula may be indicated when any ONE of the following is present:**

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | The surgeon has determined that primary fistulotomy is not indicated or likely to be inadequate.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2 | Medical management of the fistula has failed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3 | Fibrin glue or fistula plug has failed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4 | The fistula is complex (e.g. multiple tracts, recurrent, infectious, rectovaginal, suprasphincteric, anterior fistula in a woman, associated with radiation therapy, related to inflammatory bowel disease, associated with anal incontinence, involving 30 % or more of the anal sphincter). |
| 5 | Seton placement is part of a multi-stage management plan for the fistula.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### SOURCES

1. www.UpToDate.com was accessed Oct 31, 2014.
2. Hammond TM, Knowles CH, Porrett T, Lunniss PJ. The Snug Seton: short and medium term results of slow fistulotomy for idiopathic anal fistulae. Colorectal Dis 2006; 8:328.
3. Dziki A, Bartos M. Seton treatment of anal fistula: experience with a new modification. Eur J Surg 1998; 164:543.
4. Byrne, C, Solomon, M. The use of setons in fistula-in-ano. Semin Colon Rectal Surg 2009; 20:10.
5. Cox SW, Senagore AJ, Luchtefeld MA, Mazier WP. Outcome after incision and drainage with fistulotomy for ischiorectal abscess. Am Surg 1997; 63:686.
6. Vaizey CJ, Carapeti E, Cahill JA, Kamm MA. Prospective comparison of faecal incontinence grading systems. Gut 1999; 44:77.
7. Durgun V, Perek A, Kapan M, et al. Partial fistulotomy and modified cutting seton procedure in the treatment of high extrasphincteric perianal fistulae. Dig Surg 2002; 19:56.

8. Hämäläinen KP, Sainio AP. Cutting seton for anal fistulas: high risk of minor control defects. Dis Colon Rectum 1997; 40:1443.

**CODE REFERENCE** (This may not be a comprehensive list of codes to apply to this policy.)

CPT 46020

**POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION**

| Date       | Action/Description                            |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 09/25/2015 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/14/2016 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/12/2017 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/12/2018 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/12/2019 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/10/2020 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/10/2021 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 09/19/2022 | Annual review and approval by UM Committee    |
| 08/23/2023 | Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee |
| 08/23/2024 | Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee |
| 06/27/2025 | Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee |
| 06/25/2026 | Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee |