



**Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> Injections (Tendons, Ligaments, etc., of the Foot)      Policy Number: M-0050**

Payment will not be made for any use of these drugs outside of the criteria without prior authorization. The member may not be billed unless the member explicitly agrees in writing to be responsible for the charges in accordance with the contract/provider manual. Prior authorization will only be given if the provider demonstrates the intended use meets Medicare coverage guidelines.

**Indications and Limitations:**

Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> injections to strengthen tendons, ligaments, etc., of the foot are not covered under Medicare because (1) there is no evidence that vitamin B<sub>12</sub> injections are effective for the purpose of strengthening weakened tendons and ligaments, and (2) this is nonsurgical treatment under the subluxation exclusion. Accordingly, vitamin B<sub>12</sub> injections are not considered reasonable and necessary within the meaning of §1862(a)(1) of the Act.

**Background:**

Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> is essential to growth, cell reproduction, hematopoiesis, and nucleoprotein and myelin synthesis. Cyanocobalamin is the most widely used form of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, and has hematopoietic activity apparently identical to that of the antianemia factor in purified liver extract.

**References:**

1. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Vitamin B12 Injections to Strengthen Tendons, Ligaments, etc., of the Foot (150.6). Available at: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=135&>. Accessed November 29, 2012.
2. Chapter 15 – Covered Medical and Other Health Services. Available at: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=135&>. Accessed November 29, 2012.
3. Cyanocobalamin Injection [Package Insert]. Shirley, NY: American Reagent, Inc.; 2005. Available at: <http://www.mims.com/USA/drug/info/Cyanocobalamin%20Injection,%20Solution/?type=full>. Accessed November 29, 2012.

**Document History:**

Date Written: 11/29/12

Effective Date: 1/1/13

Revised:

Reviewed: 12/3/12



External Review: 12/18/12

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