

## Rhinoplasty and Other Nasal Surgeries

MEDICAL POLICY NUMBER: 166

|                                    |   |    |
|------------------------------------|---|----|
| <b>Effective Date:</b> 11/1/2024   | COVERAGE CRITERIA .....                       | 2  |
| <b>Last Review Date:</b> 10/2024   | POLICY CROSS REFERENCES.....                  | 3  |
| <b>Next Annual Review:</b> 10/2025 | POLICY GUIDELINES.....                        | 3  |
|                                    | CLINICAL EVIDENCE AND LITERATURE REVIEW ..... | 4  |
|                                    | BILLING GUIDELINES AND CODING .....           | 10 |
|                                    | REFERENCES.....                               | 10 |
|                                    | POLICY REVISION HISTORY.....                  | 11 |

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:** Company Medical Policies serve as guidance for the administration of plan benefits. Medical policies do not constitute medical advice nor a guarantee of coverage. Company Medical Policies are reviewed annually and are based upon published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that are available as of the last policy update. The Company reserves the right to determine the application of medical policies and make revisions to medical policies at any time. The scope and availability of all plan benefits are determined in accordance with the applicable coverage agreement. Any conflict or variance between the terms of the coverage agreement and Company Medical Policy will be resolved in favor of the coverage agreement. Coverage decisions are made on the basis of individualized determinations of medical necessity and the experimental or investigational character of the treatment in the individual case. In cases where medical necessity is not established by policy for specific treatment modalities, evidence not previously considered regarding the efficacy of the modality that is presented shall be given consideration to determine if the policy represents current standards of care.

**SCOPE:** Providence Health Plan, Providence Health Assurance and Providence Plan Partners as applicable (referred to individually as “Company” and collectively as “Companies”).

## PLAN PRODUCT AND BENEFIT APPLICATION

Commercial

Medicaid/OHP\*

Medicare\*\*

### \*Medicaid/OHP Members

*Oregon*: Services requested for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members follow the OHP Prioritized List and Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) as the primary resource for coverage determinations. Medical policy criteria below may be applied when there are no criteria available in the OARs and the OHP Prioritized List.

Rhinoplasty: Guideline Note 216

Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with destruction by radiofrequency ablation or cryoablation, posterior nasal nerve: Guideline Note 173

### \*\*Medicare Members

This Company policy may be applied to Medicare Plan members only when directed by a separate Medicare policy. Note that investigational services are considered “**not medically necessary**” for Medicare members.

## COVERAGE CRITERIA

### Notes:

- Rhinoplasty procedures are reviewed for both medical necessity (criteria below) and outpatient surgical site of service (see criteria in the “[Outpatient Surgical Site of Service](#),” medical policy).
  - This medical policy does not address surgical treatments for rhinoplasty (with or without cleft palate repair) in patients 17 years of age or younger *OR* rhinoplasty in the case of acute nasal fracture/trauma, all of which may be considered medically necessary.
  - “Acute” is defined as the emergent treatment of nasal fractures when the problem is diagnosed, and a treatment plan delineated within 72 hours of the fracture/trauma.
- I. Rhinoplasty for reconstructive purposes may be considered **medically necessary** when all of the following criteria (A.-C.) are met:
    - A. Patient has severe nasal airway obstruction, and the procedure is essential to accomplish opening of the nasal airways; **and**
    - B. Patient has at least one of the following (1.-2.):
      1. Nasal deformity; **or**
      2. History of trauma; **and**
    - C. Documentation for **both** of the following is submitted (1.-2.) :

1. Complete otolaryngologist evaluation; **and**
2. Documentation of the proposed surgical plan.

- II. Rhinoplasty is considered **cosmetic** when criterion I. above is not met.
- III. Absorbable nasal implants are considered **not medically necessary** for all indications, including but not limited to nasal valve collapse.
- IV. Radiofrequency energy to the nasal valve (e.g., Vivaer Nasal Airway Remodeling (CPT 30469), RhinAer (CPT 31242), Neuromark System (CPT 31242)) is considered **not medically necessary** for the treatment of all indications, including but not limited to nasal airway obstruction.
- V. Nasal cryoablation (e.g. ClariFix) is considered **not medically necessary** for the treatment of all indications, including but not limited to chronic rhinitis (allergic or nonallergic).

Link to [Evidence Summary](#)

## **POLICY CROSS REFERENCES**

- [Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures, MP98](#)
- [Outpatient Surgical Site of Service, MP420](#)

The full Company portfolio of current Medical Policies is available online and can be [accessed here](#).

## **POLICY GUIDELINES**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Rhinoplasty**

Rhinoplasty is a procedure performed on the external or internal structures of the nose, septum, or turbinate. This surgery may be performed to improve abnormal function, reconstruct congenital or acquired deformities, or to enhance appearance

#### **Absorbable Nasal implant**

Intended as a minimally invasive alternative to surgery, absorbable nasal implants are intended to support upper and lower lateral cartilage in patients with nasal valve collapse as a primary factor for nasal airway obstruction.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Low-Dose Radiofrequency Energy to the Nasal Valve**

This procedure utilizes controlled amounts of radiofrequency energy to the tissues of the nasal valve area to improve nasal breathing. The energy is delivered through a specialized device (e.g. Vivaer, RhinAer, Neuromark System) that generates heat and stimulates collagen remodeling in the nasal tissues. This process aims to strengthen and tighten the nasal valve area, improving nasal airflow and reducing symptoms.

### **Cryoablation of the Nasal Valve**

Nasal cryotherapy (e.g. ClariFix), also referred to as nasal cryoablation or cold therapy, is a noninvasive method used to alleviate chronic rhinitis symptoms. This treatment involves the use of an endoscope and cryotherapy device to freeze the nerves within the nasal passages. By subjecting the nerves to cold temperatures, the transmission of nerve signals that cause the nose to swell, drip, and run is disrupted. ClariFix is a medical device that delivers targeted cooling therapy to the nasal passages in order to alleviate symptoms associated with this condition. By freezing specific nerves in the nose, ClariFix aims to interrupt the nerve signals responsible for nasal congestion, runny nose, and other related symptoms.

## **REGULATORY STATUS**

### **U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)**

Approval or clearance by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not in itself establish medical necessity or serve as a basis for coverage. Therefore, this section is provided for informational purposes only.

- The FDA granted ClariFix (Arrinex, Inc.) 510(k) clearance on June 24, 2016, and assigned Product Code GEH (Unit, Cryosurgical, Accessories).<sup>2</sup> Two subsequent clearances have been granted for ClariFix. The indications for use are as follows: “The ClariFix Device is intended to be used as a cryosurgical tool for the destruction of unwanted tissue during surgical procedures.”
- The FDA granted 510(k) marketing clearance to the VivAer Stylus (K200300) in April 2020 to Aerin Medical based on its substantial equivalence to a previous device model.<sup>3</sup> FDA first cleared VivAer Stylus as Vivaer ARC Stylus (K172529).<sup>4</sup> VivAer Stylus’s most recent labeled indication reads: “The VivAer Stylus is indicated for use in otorhinolaryngology (ENT) surgery for the coagulation of soft tissue in the nasal airway, to treat [NAO] by shrinking submucosal tissue, including cartilage in the internal nasal valve area.”
- The FDA granted the RhinAer Stylus 510(k) marketing clearance (K221907) based on a substantially equivalent predicate device on July 29, 2022.<sup>5</sup> The cleared indication is as follows: The RhinAer Stylus is indicated for use in otorhinolaryngology (ENT) surgery for the destruction of soft tissue in the nasal airway, including in posterior nasal nerve regions in patients with chronic rhinitis. The RhinAer Stylus was found to be equivalent to the predicate device in design and intended use to generate and deliver bipolar RF energy to treat tissue in ENT procedures

## **CLINICAL EVIDENCE AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

## EVIDENCE REVIEW

### Functional Rhinoplasty

A review of the ECRI, Hayes, Cochrane, and PubMed databases was conducted regarding the use of functional rhinoplasty. Below is a summary of the available evidence identified through September 2023.

#### Systematic Reviews

- In 2022, Zhao and colleagues conducted a meta-analysis on the effects of functional rhinoplasty on nasal obstruction.<sup>6</sup> PubMed, EMBASE, and Cochrane Library databases were searched to identify studies evaluating nasal obstruction before and after functional rhinoplasty in patients with nasal valve problems. The authors noted that this has not yet been systematically reviewed on a large scale. A total of 57 cohorts from 43 studies (totaling 2024 patients) were included in the meta-analysis. Studies reviewed improved nasal ventilation after rhinoplasty was utilized to correct problems within the nasal valves. The Nasal Obstruction Symptom Evaluation (NOSE) scores indicated significant improvement in nasal obstruction at the 1-month follow-up (WMD = 38.12; 95% CI, 29.15–47.10;  $I^2 = 83.6\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ), 3-month follow-up (WMD = 48.40; 95% CI, 43.16–53.64;  $I^2 = 69.1\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ), 6-month follow-up (WMD = 44.35; 95% CI, 36.65–52.04;  $I^2 = 96.6\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ), 12-month follow-up (WMD=43.07; 95% CI, 26.56–59.58;  $I^2 = 97.9\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ), and the last follow-up (WMD = 46.90; 95% CI, 43.92–49.88;  $I^2 = 95.9\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ) with respect to the preoperative baseline. The Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) scores indicated a similar trend at the 1-month follow-up (WMD = 4.68; 95% CI, 3.79–5.57;  $I^2 = 86.8\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ), 3-month follow-up (WMD = 4.46; 95% CI, 3.19–5.74;  $I^2 = 93.3\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ), 6-month follow-up (WMD = 4.91; 95% CI, 4.04–5.78;  $I^2 = 88\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ) and last follow-up (WMD = 4.22; 95% CI, 3.12–5.32;  $I^2 = 97.1\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ). Nasal obstruction was obviously relieved through rhinomanometry (SMD=0.56; 95% CI, 0.27–0.84;  $I^2 = 0.0\%$ ;  $P = 0.00$ ) but not through peak nasal inspiratory flow (PNIF) (SMD=-1.51; 95% CI, -3.10 to 0.07;  $I^2 = 98.9\%$ ;  $P = 0.09$ ). The authors concluded that functional rhinoplasty may have a positive effect on nasal obstruction caused by nasal valve problems but urged broader and well-designed studies were needed to shed more light on the relationships in this area.
- In 2019, Kandathil and colleagues conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis evaluating efficacy of repair of the lateral nasal wall in adult patients with nasal airway obstruction.<sup>7</sup> Independent investigators systematically searched the literature through July 2017, identified eligible studies, assessed study quality, and extracted data. Effect sizes were first calculated for each study and then pooled together using random effects synthesis. In total, 10 observational studies were included for review (8 prospective, 2 retrospective), assessing 324 participants (range: 6 to 79). Follow-up ranged from 3 months to 24 months. The pooled effect size supported the efficacy of functional rhinoplasty for the treatment of nasal airway obstruction caused by lateral nasal wall insufficiency – the pooled effect size for functional rhinoplasty was -47.7 (95% CI, -53.4 to 42.1) points on the Nasal Obstruction Symptom Evaluation scale with high heterogeneity of 72%. Outcomes were similar at short- (-45.0 points [95% CI, -47.8 to -42.2 points]), mid- (-48.4 points [95% CI, -52.5 to -44.4 points]), and long-term (-49.0 points [95% CI, -62.1 to -35.8 points]) follow-ups. Limitations included small sample sizes, study design, high heterogeneity ( $I^2 = 72\%$ ) and the lack of randomized or controlled trials.

- In 2017, Floyd and colleagues conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of studies evaluating functional rhinoplasty outcomes with the Nasal Obstruction Symptom Evaluation (NOSE) score.<sup>8</sup> Independent investigators systematically searched the literature through November 2015, identified eligible studies, assessed study quality, and extracted data. Study results were pooled with a random effects model; change in NOSE score after surgery was assessed with both the mean difference between baseline and postoperative results and the standardized mean difference. In total, 16 studies were included for review, assessing NOSE scores for 479 patients (range: 7 to 38). The studies' had a pooled mean preoperative NOSE score of 67.4 (95% CI, 61-73.9) based on random effects meta-analysis. The range of scores was 34.8 to 86.5 with very high heterogeneity ( $I^2 = 95$ ). Substantial improvement in NOSE score was reported at 3-, 6-, and 12-month follow-up. Investigators concluded that nasal obstruction, as measured by the NOSE survey, improves substantially for at least 12 months after functional rhinoplasty. Limitations undermining results' validity included small sample sizes, high heterogeneity, the preponderance of case series included for review, inadequate follow-up, and a lack of randomized or controlled trials conducted to date.
- In 2008, Rhee and colleagues conducted a systematic review evaluating the safety and efficacy of functional rhinoplasty or nasal valve repair.<sup>9</sup> Independent investigators systematically searched the literature through August 2007, identified eligible studies, assessed study quality, and extracted data. In total, 82 articles were included for review, 44 of which met inclusion criteria (42 case series, 2 cohort studies), evaluated 2,295 patients (range: 7 to 312) who had undergone some form of functional rhinoplasty. Follow-up ranged from 1 month to 13 years. Outcome measures of interest included subjective gross patient reports, non-validated questionnaires, validated patient-report measures and objective measurements (e.g. rhinomanometry, acoustic rhinometry, and nasal airflow studies). Limitations included heterogeneity of study design, quality, invention and outcome measures used, all of which prevented the pooling of data. Despite heterogeneity, all articles generally supported the efficacy of functional rhinoplasty techniques for the treatment of nasal obstruction. Efficacy ranged from 65% to 100%, with no study finding rhinoplasty ineffective as an intervention. Investigators concluded that there was substantial level 4 evidence (i.e. case series/case report) to support the efficacy of rhinoplasty techniques for treatment of nasal obstruction due to nasal valve collapse. Authors also called for additional studies using comparison cohorts and standardized objective outcome measures to further establish the efficacy of rhinoplasty.

### **Absorbable Nasal Implant**

A review of the ECRI, Hayes, Cochrane, and PubMed databases was conducted regarding the use of absorbable nasal implants. Below is a summary of the available evidence identified through August 2024.

- In 2024, Hayes completed an evolving evidence review stating that there was minimal support from clinical studies and systematic reviews for the use of absorbable nasal implant for the treatment of nasal valve collapse.<sup>10</sup> There were no clinical practice guideline or position statement documents found that specifically addressed the use of absorbable nasal implants for nasal valve collapse. Hayes stated that Clinical evidence suggests absorbable nasal implants are technically feasible to implant and are associated with reductions in nasal airway obstruction

symptoms and pain; however, evidence is of generally very poor quality and there is a paucity of studies with control groups to inform whether absorbable nasal implants have clinical performance that is better, worse, or similar to competing technologies, such as nonabsorbable nasal implants. Additionally, many patients received adjunctive treatment with the nasal implants, which confounds interpretation of results. There is no applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determination (NCD) for absorbable nasal implants for NVC; payers generally consider them experimental or investigational and therefore noncovered.

- In 2022, ECRI conducted a clinical evidence review assessing the safety and efficacy of the Latera Absorbable Nasal Implant for Supporting Nasal Upper and Lower Lateral Cartilage.<sup>1</sup> Evidence from one randomized controlled trial (RCT) and four pre-post studies synthesized in meta-analysis shows that Latera is safe and improves breathing in patients with nasal wall collapse at one-year follow-up. However, how well Latera works longer term (>1 year) and how it compares with rhinoplasty is unclear because studies provide too few data. Consistent evidence synthesized in meta-analysis supports low-confidence conclusions; however, pooled findings are at risk of bias because all but one study included parallel control groups, the sole RCT was not blinded, and studies reported subjective measures (e.g., NOSE scores, pain). Also, findings may not be generalized to all patients because some patients underwent Latera treatment in addition to turbinectomy and septoplasty. Sham-controlled, double-blind RCTs with uniform treatment protocols are needed to support stronger conclusions. Evidence base was somewhat favorable.
- In 2020 Kim and colleagues completed a systematic review and meta-analysis on the effectiveness of using a bioabsorbable implant to treat nasal valve collapse.<sup>11</sup> PubMed, SCOPUS, EMBASE, Web of Science, and the Cochrane Data were independently reviewed by two researchers. Five studies (totaling 396 patients) were included in the review. The authors found that bioabsorbable nasal implants significantly reduced endoscopic lateral wall motion compared to pretreatment values and also improved quality of life (QOL) at 12 months postoperatively. Most adverse effects following the nasal implant, such as skin or mucosal reaction, infection, or implant retrieval, were reported with a 5% incidence rate. All adverse outcomes were resolved without significant sequelae. Compared with sham surgery, bioabsorbable nasal implants significantly improved disease-specific QOL.

### **Low-Dose Radiofrequency Energy to the Nasal Valve**

A review of the ECRI, Hayes, Cochrane, and PubMed databases was conducted regarding the use of radiofrequency energy to the nasal valve for the treatment of nasal obstruction (i.e. VivAer Stylus). Below is a summary of the available evidence identified through August 2024.

- In 2024, Hayes published an evidence review assessing the clinical utility of VivAer for the treatment of nasal obstruction.<sup>12</sup> A review of full-text clinical studies suggests minimal support for using the VivAer radiofrequency (RF) procedure for remodeling the nasal valve area when collapse of the nasal valve is associated with chronic nasal obstructive symptoms. Four clinical studies were identified, 3 of which were rated poor or very poor quality. Only 1 study compared VivAer with sham. No studies evaluated VivAer with another active treatment. Results were consistent across studies in direction and significance (both clinical and statistical) for patient-

reported outcomes. The rate of clinical response exceeded 85%, and all studies reported improvements in symptom scores. VivAer also appeared to improve nasal patency and may improve quality of life (QOL), especially as a result of improved sleep. The duration of effect was reported to last up to 4 years in 1 study. However, the follow-up duration of the sham-controlled part of the randomized controlled trial (RCT) was only 3 months. Only 1 study reported objective measures of nasal patency and airflow. Authors concluded that it was unclear whether VivAer significantly improves objective measures of nasal patency and airflow, and that additional well-designed comparative studies were needed to assess the effectiveness, safety, and durability of effect of VivAer and determine how VivAer compares to other active treatments for nasal obstruction.

In 2024 ECRI updated an evidence review assessing the clinical utility of Vivaer Nasal Airway Remodeling Stylus for treating nasal airway obstruction, and noted the evidence was “Favorable”. Information noted in the Conclusions included that Vivaer improves nasal breathing and quality of life and reduces nasal obstruction symptoms at 3-month and up to 24-month follow-up for patients with NAO [nasal airway obstruction], based on evidence from a randomized controlled trial and additional pre-/post-treatment studies. However, a systematic review that indirectly compared Vivaer with functional rhinoplasty procedures and nasal valve surgery, and the majority of studies included in the SR, provided very-low-quality evidence and do not offer conclusions about Vivaer’s comparative effectiveness. Comparison studies with appropriately matched patients that account for patient prognosis or studies making head-to-head comparisons are needed.<sup>13</sup>

### **Cryoablation of the Nasal Valve**

- In 2021, Hayes conducted an evidence review of Cryotherapy Using ClariFix (Arrinex Inc.) for Treatment of Chronic Rhinitis.<sup>14</sup> Hayes reported that there is scant evidence pertaining specifically to use of the ClariFix device for treatment of rhinitis. Two abstracts were retrieved, both prospective uncontrolled studies (n=98, abstract #1 and n=27, abstract #2). Neither of the abstracts named the ClariFix device but open access full text reports for both of these studies confirmed its use. Abstracts were excluded from the search if a device other than the ClariFix was named in the abstract, or if the specific device used could not be confirmed in the abstract or in an open access full-text report. Authors concluded that there is insufficient published evidence to evaluate the use of ClariFix for treatment of chronic rhinitis.
- In 2023, ECRI conducting an evidence review on ClariFix (Stryker Corp.) for treating chronic rhinitis.<sup>15</sup> ECRI determined that evidence of clinical utility was “somewhat favorable” but also reported that available evidence does not yet indicate that its benefits are sustained long-term (i.e., >2 years). Comparative effectiveness could not be determined because no published studies compare ClariFix with other procedures to treat chronic rhinitis. Authors noted that the RCT reports only on short-term follow-up and does not permit conclusions about the durability of outcomes. The study protocol suggests the published study did not include all expected outcomes. Six before-and-after studies are at high risk of bias due to lack of controls, randomization, and blinding and small sample sizes but report findings in the same direction of effect as the RCT. Authors concluded that additional RCTs with longer follow-up that compare ClariFix with other procedures, including radiofrequency ablation, are necessary to assess

ClariFix's comparative safety and effectiveness for treating chronic rhinitis in adults and enable comparative safety and effectiveness conclusions.

## **CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

### Absorbable Nasal Implants

*American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)*

In 2018, the AAO-HNS published a position statement regarding the use of absorbable nasal implants:

“The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) acknowledges the benefit of use of absorbable nasal implants for treatment of nasal valve collapse, based on currently available data. The Academy believes this implant technology may be of significant benefit to select patients.”<sup>16</sup>

### Cryoablation

*National Institute for Health and Care Excellence*

In 2023, NICE published a clinical practice guideline addressing the safety and efficacy of cryotherapy for chronic rhinitis.<sup>17</sup> Authors concluded that cryotherapy for chronic rhinitis should be used only in research, and that further research should report details of patient selection, duration of the effect (including whether repeat procedures are needed), and long-term outcomes.

No relevant clinical practice guidelines were identified addressing the use of functional rhinoplasty or radiofrequency energy for the treatment of nasal obstruction.

## **EVIDENCE SUMMARY**

Data from systematic reviews of case series indicate that rhinoplasty is a safe and effective treatment of nasal obstruction. Despite limitations arising from studies' small sample sizes, case series design and high heterogeneity, meta-analyses suggest that rhinoplasty significantly improves patients' Nasal Obstruction Symptom Evaluation (NOSE) score, an important patient-reported outcome. While randomized and controlled trials with larger patient cohorts are necessary to further establish validity, especially of objective outcomes measures, long-term data from low-quality studies sufficiently demonstrates the procedure's efficacy.

Evidence is insufficient to support the use of an absorbable lateral nasal implants for the treatment of symptomatic nasal valve collapse, as well as low-dose radiofrequency energy or cryoablation for the treatment of nasal obstruction. No evidence-based clinical guidelines recommend the use of these services and studies to date are limited by a lack of long-term follow-up, large sample sizes, and lack of reporting on key patient-oriented outcomes (e.g. retreatment rates, quality of life).

## BILLING GUIDELINES AND CODING

| CODES* |       |   |
|--------|-------|---|
| CPT    | 30400 | Rhinoplasty, primary; lateral and alar cartilages and/or elevation of nasal tip   |
|        | 30410 | Rhinoplasty, primary; complete, external parts including bony pyramid, lateral and alar cartilages, and/or elevation of nasal tip           |
|        | 30420 | Rhinoplasty, primary; including major septal repair   |
|        | 30430 | Rhinoplasty, secondary; minor revision (small amount of nasal tip work)   |
|        | 30435 | Rhinoplasty, secondary; intermediate revision (bony work with osteotomies)  |
|        | 30450 | Rhinoplasty, secondary; major revision (nasal tip work and osteotomies)   |
|        | 30460 | Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columellar lengthening; tip only                 |
|        | 30462 | Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columellar lengthening; tip, septum, osteotomies |
|        | 30468 | Repair of nasal valve collapse with subcutaneous/submucosal lateral wall implant(s)   |
|        | 30469 | Repair of nasal valve collapse with low energy, temperature-controlled (ie, radiofrequency) subcutaneous/submucosal remodeling              |
|        | 31242 | Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with destruction by radiofrequency ablation, posterior nasal nerve.  |
|        | 31243 | Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with destruction by cryoablation, posterior nasal nerve.   |
| HCPCS  | C9771 | <b>TERMED 12/31/2023</b><br><del>Nasal/sinus endoscopy, cryoablation nasal tissue(s) and/or nerve(s), unilateral or bilateral</del>         |

### \*Coding Notes:

- The above code list is provided as a courtesy and may not be all-inclusive. Inclusion or omission of a code from this policy neither implies nor guarantees reimbursement or coverage. Some codes may not require routine review for medical necessity, but they are subject to provider contracts, as well as member benefits, eligibility and potential utilization audit.
- All unlisted codes are reviewed for medical necessity, correct coding, and pricing at the claim level. If an unlisted code is submitted for non-covered services addressed in this policy then it will be **denied as not covered**. If an unlisted code is submitted for potentially covered services addressed in this policy, to avoid post-service denial, **prior authorization is recommended**.
- See the non-covered and prior authorization lists on the Company [Medical Policy](#), [Reimbursement Policy](#), [Pharmacy Policy](#) and [Provider Information website](#) for additional information.
- HCPCS/CPT code(s) may be subject to National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) procedure-to-procedure (PTP) bundling edits and daily maximum edits known as “medically unlikely edits” (MUEs) published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This policy does not take precedence over NCCI edits or MUEs. Please refer to the CMS website for coding guidelines and applicable code combinations.

## REFERENCES

1. ECRI. Latera Absorbable Nasal Implant (Stryker Corp.) for Treating Nasal Valve Collapse. <https://www.ecri.org/components/ProductBriefs/Pages/24952.aspx>. Published 2022. Accessed 9/17/2024.

2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. 510k Clearance - ClariFix Device. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cdrh\\_docs/pdf16/K160669.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cdrh_docs/pdf16/K160669.pdf). Published 2017. Accessed 9/17/2024.
3. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. 510k Clearance - VivAer Stylus. {U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2017 #17}. Published 2020. Accessed 9/17/2024.
4. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. 510k Clearance - Vivaer ARC Stylus. <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm?ID=K172529>. Published 2017. Accessed 9/17/2024.
5. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. 510k Clearance - RhinAer® Stylus. <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpmn/pmn.cfm?id=K221907>. Published 2022. Accessed 9/17/2024.
6. Zhao R, Chen K, Tang Y. Effects of Functional Rhinoplasty on Nasal Obstruction: A Meta-Analysis. *Aesthetic Plast Surg.* 2022;46(2):873-885.
7. Kandathil CK, Spataro EA, Laimi K, Moubayed SP, Most SP, Saltychev M. Repair of the Lateral Nasal Wall in Nasal Airway Obstruction: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA facial plastic surgery.* 2018;20(4):307-313.
8. Floyd EM, Ho S, Patel P, Rosenfeld RM, Gordin E. Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Studies Evaluating Functional Rhinoplasty Outcomes with the NOSE Score. *Otolaryngology--head and neck surgery : official journal of American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.* 2017;156(5):809-815.
9. Rhee JS, Arganbright JM, McMullin BT, Hannley M. Evidence supporting functional rhinoplasty or nasal valve repair: A 25-year systematic review. *Otolaryngology--head and neck surgery : official journal of American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.* 2008;139(1):10-20.
10. Hayes. Absorbable Nasal Implant (Latera, Stryker) for the Treatment of Nasal Valve Collapse. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/eer.latera4372>. Published 2024. Accessed 9/17/2024.
11. Kim DH, Lee HH, Kim SH, Hwang SH. Effectiveness of using a bioabsorbable implant (Latera) to treat nasal valve collapse in patients with nasal obstruction: systemic review and meta-analysis. *Int Forum Allergy Rhinol.* 2020;10(6):719-725.
12. Hayes. VivAer (Aerin Medical Inc.) for Nasal Airway Remodeling to Treat Nasal Obstruction. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/eer.vivaer4978>. Published 2024. Accessed 9/17/2024.
13. ECRI. Vivaer Nasal Airway Remodeling Stylus (Aerin Medical, Inc.) for Treating Nasal Airway Obstruction. <https://www.ecri.org/components/ProductBriefs/Pages/26243.aspx>. Published 2024. Accessed 9/17/2024.
14. Hayes. Cryotherapy Using ClariFix (Arrinex Inc.) for Treatment of Chronic Rhinitis. <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/hss.clarifix4569>. Published 2021. Accessed 9/17/2024.
15. ECRI. ClariFix (Stryker Corp.) for Treating Chronic Rhinitis. <https://www.ecri.org/components/ProductBriefs/Pages/26493.aspx>. Published 2023. Accessed 9/17/2024.
16. American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). AAO-HNS Statement on Absorbable Nasal Implants. <https://www.entnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Nasal-Implant-Letter-and-Statement-2018.pdf>. Published 2018. Accessed 9/17/2024.
17. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Cryotherapy for chronic rhinitis - Interventional procedures guidance. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg771>. Published 2023. Accessed 9/17/2024.

## POLICY REVISION HISTORY

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>REVISION SUMMARY</b>  |
|-------------|--|
| 2/2023      | Converted to new policy template.  |
| 6/2023      | Interim update. Changed denial from investigational to not medically necessary   |
| 1/2024      | Annual update. Added criterion addressing low-dose radiofrequency to the nasal valve.  |
| 4/2024      | Interim update. Added product names to criterion addressing radiofrequency to the nasal valve. Added criterion addressing cryoablation of the nasal valve. Added 2 relevant CPT codes. |
| 11/2024     | Annual update. No changes to criteria.   |