

CGS and Noridian DME MAC's confirm that a high level spinal cord injury is an example of immunosuppression under coverage criteria for A4353.

June 11, 2025, CGS published an urological supplies F&Q (question #2).

May 13, 2025, Noridian published an Article Detail¹

Medicare Coverage Criteria for Intermittent Catheters A4353

Medicare Policy:²

Intermittent catheters are covered for Medicare beneficiaries who have a **permanent impairment of urination**. This is generally defined as a condition of "long and indefinite duration." A4353 is covered when the beneficiary requires catheterization as noted above, and the beneficiary meets one of the following criteria (1-5):

1. The beneficiary resides in a nursing facility,
2. **The beneficiary is immunosuppressed**, for example (not all-inclusive):
 - on a regimen of immunosuppressive drugs post-transplant,
 - on cancer chemotherapy,
 - has AIDS,
 - has a drug-induced state such as chronic oral corticosteroid use.
3. The beneficiary has radiologically documented vesico-ureteral reflux while on a program of intermittent catheterization,
4. The beneficiary is a spinal cord injured female with neurogenic bladder who is pregnant (for duration of pregnancy only),
5. The beneficiary has had distinct, recurrent urinary tract infections, while on a program of sterile intermittent catheterization with A4351/A4352 and sterile lubricant A4332, twice within the 12-month prior to the initiation of sterile intermittent catheter kits.

Medical Records Compliance: The medical record **must reflect all relevant information** to support the claim for A4353. The diagnosis must be well documented in the medical record with other supporting documentation that clearly meets the coverage criteria (1-5) under the Urological Medicare Policy.

Questions: Contact us at USreimbursement@coloplast.com

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References:

<https://cgsmedicare.com/jb/help/faqs/current/uro-supplies.html>

1. <https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jddme/search-result/-/view/2230715/coverage-criteria-for-intermittent-urinary-catheters-a4353-immunosuppressed-beneficiaries-meeting-criteria-2>

2. LCD - Urological Supplies (L33803). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=33803&ver=47&>

Medicare intermittent catheter (IC) documentation check list:

General Medicare documentation check list^{1,2}

Prescription:

- ☐ Patients' information (name, date of birth)
- ☐ Description of the item (either a general description, a HCPCS code, a HCPCS code narrative, or a brand name/model number. Ex: (hydrophilic straight intermittent catheter)
- ☐ Catheterization frequency per day and quantity of IC (specific number)
- ☐ Prescribing clinician's signature
- ☐ Clinician name or National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- ☐ Order date

Medical Record:

- ☐ Documentation of permanent urinary incontinence or permanent urinary retention (not expected to be medically or surgically corrected within 3 months)
- ☐ Medical justification to support the type of intermittent catheter prescribed
- ☐ Must match the prescription (frequency of IC, quantity of IC, type of IC)

Documentation required by intermittent catheter type^{1,2}

A4351: Straight Tip, with or without coating

- ☐ Everything in the general Medicare documentation check list

A4352: Coudé Tip, with or without coating

- ☐ Everything in the general Medicare documentation check list
- ☐ Documentation indicating that patient has tried and is unable to pass a straight tip catheter
- ☐ Documented medical need for a coudé catheter

**Use of a Coudé tip catheter in female beneficiaries is rarely reasonable and necessary^{1*}*

A4353: Closed System or sterile kit

- ☐ Everything in the general Medicare documentation check list.
- Patient meets one of 5 criteria:*
 - ☐ Patient resides in a nursing facility
 - ☐ Patient is immunosuppressed
 - ☐ Patient has documented vesico-ureteral reflux
 - ☐ Patient is a spinal cord injured female with neurogenic bladder who is pregnant
 - ☐ Patient has had 2 documented urinary tract infections (UTI) while on a straight or coudé tip IC within 12-months

Required documentation for UTIs:^{1,2}

1. Urine culture showing greater than 10,000 bacteria for each UTI
2. One additional symptom:
 - ☐ Fever
 - ☐ Systemic leukocytosis
 - ☐ Change in urinary urgency, frequency, or incontinence
 - ☐ Appearance of new or increase in autonomic dysreflexia (sweating, bradycardia, blood pressure elevation)
 - ☐ Physical signs of prostatitis, epididymitis, orchitis
 - ☐ Increased muscle spasms
 - ☐ Pyuria (greater than 5 white blood cells [WBCs] per high-powered field)

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1. LCD - Urological Supplies (L33803). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=33803&ver=47&>

2. Article - Urological Supplies - Policy Article (A52521). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=52521&ver=38>