

TONSILLECTOMY

History: Partial laser tonsillectomy usually requires several treatment sessions. This technique has not been shown to be effective and is considered *investigational*.

****FYI****Tonsillectomy by any technique is to be performed in outpatient treatment setting for children and adults. Complete tonsillectomy is considered medically necessary for patients with chronic tonsillitis or tonsillar hypertrophy.

Tonsillectomy for patients with tonsillar debris and chronic halitosis without chronic tonsillitis or hypertrophy is considered not medically necessary.

Indications: Individual consideration for tonsillectomy performed in an **inpatient setting** is given for the following:

1. Surgical or postoperative complication
2. Patient has a medical condition requiring prolonged postoperative observation
3. Patient requires inpatient hospitalization for another condition
4. Patient lives more than 50 miles away from the nearest appropriate outpatient setting

Contra-Indications: See history

Physical: See above

Diagnostic Testing: None

References:

The Regence Group (Blue Cross Guideline), Policy No. 102, September 20, 1999

Approved By:

Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) on August 9, 2001

VHS PHP, Inc Prior Authorization Guideline/May 2001

CPT Code: 42820-42826