Coverage of any medical intervention discussed in a Prevea360 Health Plan medical policy is subject to the limitations and exclusions outlined in the member's benefit certificate or policy and to applicable state and/or federal laws.

LINX Reflux Management System  

**Covered Service:** Yes

**Prior Authorization Required:** Yes

**Additional Information:** None

Prevea360 Health Plan Medical Policy:

1.0 The LINX Reflux Management System **requires** prior authorization through the Health Services Division and is considered medically necessary for patients with chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease (reflux symptoms that occur two or more times per week) that have not responded to maximum medical treatment options when **all** of the following criteria are met:

1.1 Member must be at least 21 years of age; **AND**

1.2 Member is a suitable surgical candidate (e.g. able to undergo general anesthesia and laparoscopic surgery); **AND**

1.3 Has documented typical symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease for longer than six (6) months; **AND**

1.4 Member requires daily proton pump inhibitor or other anti-reflux drug therapy; **AND**

1.5 Total Distal Ambulatory Esophageal pH **must** meet the following criteria: PH <4 (%) for 4.5% or more of the time following discontinuation of GERD medications at least seven (7) days prior to testing.

2.0 The following indications are considered experimental and investigational and therefore not medically necessary:

2.1 Scleroderma

2.2 History of gastroesophageal surgery, anti-reflux procedures, or gastroesophageal/gastric cancer

2.3 Any previous endoscopy anti-reflux intervention for GERD and/or previous endoscopic intervention for treatment of Barrett’s esophagus

2.4 Suspected or confirmed esophageal or gastric cancer

2.5 Hiatal hernia >3 cm as determined by endoscopy if hiatal hernia repair to less than 3 cm is not planned in conjunction with LINX

2.6 Distal esophageal motility (average of sensors 3 and 4) is less than 35 mmHg peristaltic amplitude on wet swallows or <70% (propulsive) peristaltic sequences
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2.7 Esophagitis – Grade C or D (LA Classification)
2.8 Morbid obesity (BMI > 35)
2.9 Symptoms of dysphagia more than once per week within the last three (3) months
2.10 Diagnosed with Scleroderma
2.11 Diagnosed with an esophageal major motility disorder such as, but not limited to: achalasia, Nutcracker Esophagus, or Diffuse Esophageal Spasm or Hypertensive Lower Esophageal Sphincter (LES)
2.12 Member has a history or known esophageal stricture or gross esophageal anatomic abnormalities (e.g. Schatzki’s ring, obstructive lesions, etc.)
2.13 Member has esophageal or gastric varices
2.14 Member has Barrett’s esophagus
2.15 Member is lactating, pregnant, or plans to become pregnant in the future
2.16 Medical illness (e.g. congestive heart failure) that may cause the subject to be non-compliant with or unable to meet the protocol requirements or is associated with limited life expectancy (e.g. less than three (3) years)
2.17 Diagnosed psychiatric disorder (e.g. bipolar, schizophrenia, etc.). Note: members that exhibit depression that are on appropriate medication(s) are allowable
2.18 Member with suspected or known allergies to titanium, stainless steel, nickel or ferrous materials
2.19 Members who have an electrical implant (e.g. pacemakers, defibrillators) or other metallic, abdominal implants

<table>
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