IAC Vein Center Accreditation: Is It Important?

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Disclosures
- President of IAC Vein Center Accreditation

IAC Vein Center Accreditation
Importance – provide standards
- Multiple specialties involved all with different levels of training and experience
  - Vascular surgeons
  - Cardiothoracic surgeons
  - General surgeons
  - Cardiologists
  - Internists
  - Family practitioners
  - Dermatologists
  - Gynecologists
  - Plastic surgeons
  - Urologists
  - Others

- No uniform oversight re procedure indications, procedure performance or reporting of outcomes

IAC Vein Center Accreditation
Standards - Evaluating Scope of Practice
- Who is Performing Testing and Procedures?
  - Mercenary noninvasive vascular technologists
    - "Trash for cash" – inaccurate studies to generate procedures
  - Performing vein access and application of tumescence
  - Medical assistants

Slippery slope!
- Unethical physicians?
- No oversight?
- No enforceable standards?

And/or Greater patient and physician awareness

Asymptomatic 53yof with spider veins and small VVs

Recommended Procedures:
- RF ablation
- left GSV
- EVLT
- left SSV
- right SSV
- Ambulatory phlebectomy
- left VVs
- UGS
- Left leg
- Right leg
- Sclerotherapy
- Left leg
- Right leg

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Benefits of IAC Accreditation

- Standards
  - Establish necessary training qualifications across specialities
  - Procedure indications and performance
  - Safety guidelines
  - Measurement and recording of outcomes

Result: Patient safety and care are improved

Purpose of IAC Vein Center Standards

- Establish minimal requirements for facilities to provide high-quality care (not centers of excellence)
- Develop guidelines as a foundation to achieve realistic quality goals

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IAC Vein Center Areas of Accreditation

- Superficial venous evaluation and management
- Deep venous (coming soon)
- Lymphatic (coming soon)

IAC Standards for Vein Center Accreditation: Superficial Venous Evaluation and Management
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BCBS of MA Payment Policy

IAC Vein Center Accreditation Update
- 143 applications submitted
- 125 accredited facilities
- 18 delayed or waiting for approval
- 133 applications in progress pre-submission

IAC Vein Center Facilities

Endovenous ablation accreditation required for claims to pay

| Date Issued: | Aug 28, 2015 |
| Effective Date: | Jan 1, 2016 |
| To: | The physicians and facilities that offer endovenous ablation to our members |
| From: | Lee Sirois, M.D., Vice President, Medical Management and Policy; Ken Dooley, M.D., Director, Health and Medical Management |

In January, we notified you that we would require all providers who currently perform endovenous ablation, or who wish to perform it, to obtain Inter-American Accreditation Commission (IAC) Vein Center accreditation by September 1, 2015. For currently participating providers who have not yet completed the accreditation process, we have extended the deadline until January 1, 2016.

All Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts physician who are currently privileged to perform endovenous ablation must be listed as approved on the IAC-approved provider list for Vein Center Accreditation by January 1, 2016. As of February 1, 2016, we will remove privileging status for those providers who are not on that list, and no longer provide reimbursement for any endovenous ablation services they deliver. This requirement will ensure that our members receive reimbursement from providers who meet current standards.
Why Accreditation is Important

- Summary
  - Accreditation will benefit all patients
    - It will either elevate or eliminate those physicians who should not be performing these procedures
  - If we don’t do it it will be done for us
  - Accreditation (Vein Center) is the best way to achieve Enforceable Standards
    - Must be linked to payment
    - Provides a unique opportunity for physicians to take control and work with government and insurance industry to achieve a greater good

Thank You for your attention