



2009

**VARICOSE VEIN LIGATION/DIVISION/STRIPPING CRITERIA
(MEDICARE)**

Varicose vein ligation, division and stripping are medically appropriate when **ONE OR MORE** of the criteria are met:

- Evidence of chronic venous insufficiency marked by lipodermatosclerosis, chronic painful edema, severe pigmentation, venous dermatitis; **OR** intractable venous ulcers; **OR**
- More than one episode of minor hemorrhage from a ruptured superficial varicosity; **OR**
- A single significant hemorrhage from a ruptured superficial varicosity, especially if transfusion of blood is required; **OR**
- Recurrent superficial thrombophlebitis; **OR**
- Severe and persistent symptoms interfering with activities of daily living, such as pain, cramping throbbing, burning, itching, swelling during activity or after prolonged standing, feeling of heaviness or fatigue for which the patient has failed a trial of conservative management through a minimum of 3 months, such as surgical pressure gradient stockings (use of nonprescription support Ted's is not sufficient), exercise and weight control programs, frequent elevation of affected leg(s), avoidance of hot baths, avoidance of prolonged standing, use of analgesics.