



**2009**

**VISCOSUPPLEMENTATION FOR OSTEOARTHRITIS CRITERIA  
(MEDICARE)**

Viscosupplementation (e.g., Hyalgan (sodium hyaluronate), Supartz (sodium hyaluronate), Synvisc (Hylan G-F 20), or Orthovisc (high molecular weight form of hyaluronic acid)) medically necessary for members with osteoarthritis of the knee who meet **ALL** of the following selection criteria:

- The member has documented symptomatic osteoarthritis of the knee; **AND**
- The member reports pain which interferes with functional activities (e.g., ambulation, prolonged standing); **AND**
- Conservative therapy (including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), acetaminophen (up to 1 g four times per day) and topical capsaicin cream) has been attempted in each joint to be treated with viscosupplements and has not resulted in functional improvement after at least three months or the member is unable to tolerate conservative therapy because of adverse side effects; **AND**
- The member has failed to adequately respond to aspiration and injection of intra-articular steroids; **AND**
- The pain cannot be attributed to other forms of joint disease; **AND**
- There are no contraindications to the injections. (e.g., active joint infection, bleeding disorder)