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SHP Epidermal Nerve Fiber Density Testing

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Coverage

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See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.

Application to Products

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Policy is applicable to all products.

Authorization Requirements

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No pre-certification is required, post service review.

Description of Item or Service

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Small Nerve Fiber Pathology through Nerve Fiber Density Measurement an intra-epidermal nerve fiber density (IENFD) by skin punch biopsy where a small specimen to identify the amount of nerve fibers in the skin.

Exceptions and Limitations

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- There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of epidermal nerve fiber density testing for uses other than those listed in the clinical indications for procedure section.

Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- Epidermal nerve fiber density testing (ENFD) is considered medically necessary for individuals with suspected small fiber neuropathy and **ALL** of the following:
 - Painful sensory neuropathy
 - Physical examination shows no evidence of findings consistent with large-fiber neuropathy, such as reduced or absent muscle-stretch reflexes or reduced proprioception and vibration sensation
 - Electromyography studies are normal and show no evidence of large fiber neuropathy
 - Autonomic testing is normal and show no evidence of large fiber neuropathy
 - Nerve conduction velocity studies are normal and show no evidence of large fiber neuropathy
- Epidermal nerve fiber density testing is **NOT COVERED** for **ANY** of the following:
 - To detect preclinical small fiber neuropathy in asymptomatic members who have **1 or more** of the following

- Diabetes
- impaired glucose intolerance
- hypothyroid persons, and for evaluation of individuals with Fabry disease, not an exclusive list) known to cause peripheral neuropathy
- hereditary transthyretin (TTR) amyloidosis and iatrogenic TTR amyloidosis
- Ehlers-Danlos syndromes
- Fabry disease
- fibromyalgia
- postural tachycardia syndrome
- REM sleep behavior disorder
- For monitoring disease progression or response to treatment
- Sweat gland nerve fiber density for the diagnosis of small-fiber neuropathy and other indications
- Diagnosis of endometriosis

Document History

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- Revised Dates:
 - 2022: May
 - 2021: May
 - 2020: November
 - 2019: September
 - 2015: July
 - 2014: August
 - 2013: July
 - 2012: April
- Reviewed Dates:
 - 2019: December
 - 2018: April
 - 2017: January
 - 2014: July
 - 2012: July
- Effective Date: August 2011

Coding Information

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- CPT/HCPCS codes covered if policy criteria is met:
 - CPT 11104 - Punch biopsy of skin (including simple closure, when performed); single lesion
 - CPT 11105 - Punch biopsy of skin (including simple closure, when performed); each separate/additional lesion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- CPT/HCPCS codes considered not medically necessary per this Policy:
 - None

References

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References used include but are not limited to the following:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; Uptodate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

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(2022). Retrieved Apr 19, 2022, from Hayes, Inc.: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/search?q=%257B%2522text%2522:%2522Epidermal%2520Nerve%2520Fiber%2520Density%2520Testing%2522,%2522title%2522:null,%2522termsource%2522:%2522searchbar%2522,%2522page%2522:%2522%2522page%2522:0,%2522size%2522:50%2527D,%2522type%2522>

(2022). Retrieved Apr 20, 2022, from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search-results.aspx?keyword=nerve+fiber&keywordType=starts&areald=s53&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all>

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Kelley, M., & Hackshaw, K. (2021, Mar 17). Intraepidermal Nerve Fiber Density as Measured by Skin Punch Biopsy as a Marker for Small Fiber Neuropathy: Application in Patients with Fibromyalgia. Retrieved Apr 20, 2022, from PubMed: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=hospital+bed+use+at+home&filter=simsearch2.ffrt&filter=years.2021-2021>

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Small Fiber Neuropathy. (2022). Retrieved Apr 20, 2022, from DynaMed: <https://www.dynamedex.com/condition/small-fiber-neuropathy#GUID-8266B362-BDBB-4C02-A018-09EA03B58FE9>

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Smith, A., & Gibson, S. (2022, Feb 25). Skin biopsy for the evaluation of peripheral nerve disease. Retrieved Apr 20, 2022, from UpToDate: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/skin-biopsy-for-the-evaluation-of-peripheral-nerve-disease?search=Nerve%20Fiber%20density%20testing&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H3851105

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