



EFFECTIVE DATE: 04|20|2010
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 04|02|2020

OVERVIEW

Topographic brain mapping (TBM) is an extension of conventional electroencephalography.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Topographic brain mapping is not covered as the evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Commercial Products

Topographic brain mapping is considered not medically necessary as the evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate section of the Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for applicable not medically necessary/not covered benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

TBM, sometimes referred to as brain electrical activity mapping (BEAM), involves the computerized analysis and topographic display of electroencephalogram (EEG) rhythms and evoked potential data on a color video screen. A wide assortment of maps can be created to represent different measurement patterns. The purpose of TBM is to identify patterns that distinguish pathological groups from normal ones.

There is no scientific literature to support the use of TBM, therefore, topographic brain mapping is considered not medically necessary.

CODING

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

The following HCPCS code is not covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare and not medically necessary for Commercial Products:

S8040 Topographic brain mapping

RELATED POLICIES

Not applicable

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, June 2020

Provider Update, January 2020

Provider Update, May 2018

Provider Update, May 2017
Provider Update, May 2016
Provider Update, October 2015

REFERENCES

1. American Academy of Neurology and the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society. Assessment of digital EEG, quantitative EEG, and EEG brain mapping. *Neurology*;1997;49:277-292.

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