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

MEDICAL CRITERIA
Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT
BlueCHiP for Medicare and 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 services not medically necessary.

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 code is considered not medically necessary:
S8040  Topographic brain mapping

S8040 is the correct code for topographic brain mapping and must be used. Use of a CPT code in its place would be considered incorrect coding.

RELATED POLICIES
Not applicable

PUBLISHED
Provider Update, May 2018
Provider Update, May 2017
Provider Update, May 2016
Provider Update, October 2015
Provider Update, August 2014
REFERENCES
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Topographic Brain Mapping 2.01.10. Policy archived July 2009