

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 08|17|2010  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 01|22|2016

## OVERVIEW

Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) is a medical imaging technique consisting of X-ray computed tomography where the X-rays are divergent, forming a cone. This policy documents that CBCT is not appropriate when used for medical diagnosis or surgical indications.

## MEDICAL CRITERIA

None

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

## POLICY STATEMENT

### BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

Cone beam computed tomography scan is considered not medically necessary for medical or surgical indications when rendered by an eligible provider. The current literature does not define the clinical conditions in which the cone beam imaging methodology is superior to or equal to computed tomography (CT) or other imaging techniques with respect to medical decision making or use in therapeutic procedures. CBCT scan for dental purposes is considered a contract exclusion and is therefore non-covered.

## COVERAGE

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

## BACKGROUND

A CT scan is a diagnostic imaging method in which a computer is used to generate a three-dimensional image of an object using a series of two-dimensional X-ray image slices taken around a single axis of rotation. Cone beam refers to the type of X-ray projection, which allows users to image a small, well-defined volume such as the lower face and mouth at a low radiation dosage.

The current literature does not define the clinical conditions in which the cone beam imaging methodology is superior to or equal to CT or other imaging techniques with respect to medical decision making or use in therapeutic procedures.

## CODING

### BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

There are no specific codes that address the cone-beam technique. Please submit claims with the following unlisted CPT, following the unlisted process

76497 Unlisted computed tomography procedure (e.g., diagnostic, interventional)

## RELATED POLICIES

Not applicable

## **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, April 2016

Provider Update, June 2015

Provider Update, September 2014

Provider Update, March 2012

Provider Update, October 2010

## **REFERENCES**

**1. Comparison of the accuracy of cone beam computed tomography and medical computed tomography: implications for clinical diagnostics with guided surgery.**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23527357>

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