Medical Coverage Policy

Cone Beam Computed Tomography

- Device/Equipment
- Drug
- Medical
- Surgery
- Test
- Other

Effective Date: 8/17/2010  
Policy Last Updated: 12/20/2011

☐ Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.

☒ Prospective review is not required.

Description:
A Computed Tomography (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.

Medical Criteria:
Not applicable.

Policy:
Cone beam CT scan is considered not medically necessary for medical or surgical indications for all BCBSRI products including BlueCHiP for Medicare 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 CT or other imaging techniques with respect to medical decision making or use in therapeutic procedures.

Cone beam CT scan for dental purposes is considered a contract exclusion and is therefore non-covered for all BCBSRI products.

Coverage:
Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for the applicable Non-covered and Not Medically Necessary services coverage.

Codes:
There are no specific codes that address the cone-beam technique.

Also known as:
3D Rendering
Cone Beam

Related topics:
Not applicable
Published:

Provider Update, October 2010
Provider Update, March 2012

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