

Medical Coverage Policies

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Intravascular Spectroscopy

EFFECTIVE DATE	12/07/2010	LAST UPDATED	12/07/2010
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Description:

Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) is an imaging method that utilizes a specially designed catheter with an attached ultrasound probe. It allows the application of ultrasound technology to see from inside vessels out through the surrounding blood column, visualizing the endothelium (inner wall) of vessels in living individuals. Near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy is a highly developed analytic technique commonly used to identify the chemical composition of unknown substances. It is based on the differential absorption of light at different wavelengths by different chemicals.

The combined features of intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) and near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy are proposed to help cardiologists identify and characterize the plaques that complicate stenting and are associated with acute coronary events. The NIR spectroscopy identifies the chemical content of the plaques; the IVUS provides an image of plaque structure and stent features.

The medical efficacy of this procedure has not been established.

Medical Criteria:

Not applicable.

Policy:

Use near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy is considered not medically necessary due to the lack of peer-reviewed medical literature which supports efficacy.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate member certificate/subscriber agreement/RtIe Care contract for applicable not medically necessary benefits/coverage.

Coding:

+0205T (Intravascular catheter-based coronary vessel or graft spectroscopy [e.g., infrared] during diagnostic evaluation and/or therapeutic intervention including imaging supervision, interpretation, and report, each vessel

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