Measurement of Advanced Glycation End Products by Skin Autoflourescence

Description:
Skin autofluorescence is a non-invasive measurement of the level of tissue accumulation of advanced glycation end products (AGEs). AGEs report cumulative glycemic and oxidative stress and have been studied in a wide variety of conditions, including congestive heart failure, diabetes, and renal failure. Several studies have shown that AGEs accumulate in skin faster in individuals with poor blood sugar control and that measurement of AGEs by skin autofluorescence may be able to predict the risk of developing diabetes and related complications.

Although several large research studies are underway, thus far the populations studied have been small. Therefore measurement of advanced glycation end products by skin autoflourescence is considered not medically necessary for all indications, including but not limited to, cardiac disease, diabetes, and renal failure as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Medical Criteria:
Not applicable.

Policy:
BlueCHIP for Medicare members:
Measurement of Advanced Glycation End Products by Skin Autoflourescence is covered for BlueCHIP for Medicare members only.

All other members:
FDA approval has not yet been granted for measurement of advanced glycation end products by skin autoflourescence. Although several large research studies are underway, thus far the populations studied have been small. Therefore measurement of advanced glycation end products by skin autoflourescence is considered not medically necessary for all indications, including but not limited to, cardiac disease, diabetes, and renal failure as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Coverage:
Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate evidence of coverage, subscriber agreement, or benefit booklet for applicable coverage.

Coding:
The following code is a contract exclusion: 0233T
Also Known As:
N/A

Related Topics:
N/A

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Provider Update, January 2012
Provider Update, January 2013

References:


Na R, Stender IM, Henriksen M, Wulf HC. Autofluorescence of Human Skin is Age-Related After Correction for Skin Pigmentation and Redness. The Society for Investigative Dermatology;116(4);April 2001:536-540.

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