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

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Not applicable.

POLICY STATEMENT
BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial
Topographic brain mapping is considered not medically necessary as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature that demonstrates that the procedure/service is effective.

MEDICAL CRITERIA
Not applicable.

BACKGROUND
TBM, sometimes referred to as brain electrical activity mapping (BEAM), involves the computerized analysis and topographic display of 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 Topographic brain mapping, therefore, Topographic brain mapping is considered not medically necessary.

COVERAGE
Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for limitations of benefits/coverage when services are not medically necessary.

CODING
BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial
The following code is considered not medically necessary:

S8040

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  Aug 2014
Provider Update  Aug 2013
Provider Update  Jun 2012
Provider Update  Jun 2011
REFERENCES
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Topographic Brain Mapping 2.01.10. Policy archived July 2009

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