Medical Policy
Serial Endpoint Testing for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disorders

Table of Contents
- Policy: Commercial
- Policy: Medicare
- Authorization Information
- Coding Information
- Description
- Policy History
- Information Pertaining to All Policies
- References

Policy Number: 270
BCBSA Reference Number: 2.01.23

Related Policies
None

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members
Serial endpoint testing (SET) for the determination of a safe starting dose for testing or immunotherapy when there is potential for the specific allergen in question to produce a severe systemic allergic reaction or anaphylaxis may be considered MEDICALLY NECESSARY.

Prior Authorization Information
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS)
Prior authorization is NOT required.

Commercial Members: PPO, and Indemnity
Prior authorization is NOT required.

Medicare Members: HMO BlueSM
Prior authorization is NOT required.

Medicare Members: PPO BlueSM
Prior authorization is NOT required.

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-9 Codes
The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s
contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>95027</td>
<td>Intracutaneous (intradermal) tests, sequential and incremental, with allergenic extracts for airborne allergens, immediate type reaction, including test interpretation and report by a physician, specify number of tests</td>
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Description
Serial endpoint testing (SET) involves subcutaneous intradermal injection of increasing doses of an allergen to determine the lowest concentration that produces a positive reaction (the "endpoint"). SET is used to diagnose allergic disorders and to guide treatment with immunotherapy by using the endpoint dilution as the starting antigen dose.

Summary
Although there is little primary literature on SET and health outcomes, several guidelines and publications have discussed the need for this more intensive type of testing for certain drug allergies. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the use of SET testing in the management of patients with secondary syphilis or neurosyphilis and a history of penicillin allergy.

Based on this literature, use of serial endpoint testing is considered medically necessary in specific situations, i.e., when there is a high likelihood for a severe allergic reaction to specific agents such as antibiotics or other high-risk allergens.

Policy History

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/2010</td>
<td>Medical Policy 270 created. No change to policy statement.</td>
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Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies
Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:
- Medical Policy Terms of Use
- Managed Care Guidelines
- Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
- Clinical Exception Process
- Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

References
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Workowski KA, Berman SM. Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines 2006: Management of patients who have a history of penicillin allergy.