Medical Policy
Electrocardiographic Body Surface Mapping

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Policy Number: 289
BCBSA Reference Number: 2.02.23

Related Policies
- Contrast-enhanced Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA) for Coronary Artery Evaluation, 620

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members

Electrocardiographic body surface mapping for the diagnosis or management of cardiac disorders, including acute coronary syndrome is INVESTIGATIONAL.

Note: This policy does not address a standard 12-lead ECG for suspected myocardial ischemia.

Prior Authorization Information
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS)
This is NOT a covered service.

Commercial Members: PPO, and Indemnity
This is NOT a covered service.

Medicare Members: HMO BlueSM
This is NOT a covered service.

Medicare Members: PPO BlueSM
This is NOT a covered service.

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>0178T</td>
<td>Electrocardiogram, 64 leads or greater, with graphic presentation and analysis; with interpretation and report</td>
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<tr>
<td>0179T</td>
<td>Electrocardiogram, 64 leads or greater, with graphic presentation and analysis; tracing and graphics only, without interpretation and report</td>
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<tr>
<td>0180T</td>
<td>Electrocardiogram, 64 leads or greater, with graphic presentation and analysis; interpretation and report only</td>
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### ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes

Investigational for all diagnoses.

### Description

Electrocardiographic body surface mapping (BSM) is an electrocardiographic (ECG) technique that uses multiple (generally 80 or more) electrocardiography leads to detect cardiac electrical activity. It is suggested that the use of additional leads may result in improved diagnostic accuracy compared to that of the standard 12-lead ECG.

Potential uses of this device are as follows:
- Early evaluation of occult ischemia in patients who do not meet the current definition of ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), or
- Rapid stratification of low-risk chest pain patients who present to the emergency department.

BSM consists of an 80-lead disposable electrode array in the form of a vest and includes a conducting gel that is applied to the patient’s chest and back. The vest can be affixed to the patient in less than 5 minutes. This system displays clinical data in three forms; a colorimetric 3-D torso image, an 80-lead single beat view, and the 12-lead electrocardiograph (ECG). The colorimetric torso images are said to allow the practitioner to rapidly scan the heart for significant abnormalities.

An example of electrocardiographic body surface mapping for the diagnosis or management of cardiac disorders is the PRIME ECG® from Verathon. All electrocardiographic body surface mapping for the diagnosis or management of cardiac disorders are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

### Summary

A number of studies have examined the association between electrocardiographic body surface mapping and acute myocardial infarction, but no prospective trials using body surface mapping to guide treatment have been conducted. Results of published studies have been variable, but under ideal conditions it is possible that body surface mapping has a higher sensitivity than 12-lead ECG alone for acute coronary events. However, the data also suggest that the specificity may be lower, highlighting concerns regarding false-positive results. In clinical practice, patients with symptoms suspicious for ischemia are not diagnosed with 12-lead ECG alone but in combination with clinical presentation and serial cardiac enzymes. There is no evidence demonstrating that electrocardiographic body surface mapping leads to changes in management that improve health outcomes. Therefore, the clinical utility of the body surface mapping technique, both in terms of benefits and risks and burdens, has not been demonstrated. As a result, the policy statement remains unchanged, and this technique remains investigational.

### Policy History

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/2013</td>
<td>New references from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
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</table>
Medical policy ICD 10 remediation: Formatting, editing and coding updates. No changes to policy statements.

Medical Policy Group – Cardiology and Pulmonology. No changes to policy statements.

Policy289 effective 12/7/2010, ongoing non-coverage of electrocardiographic body surface mapping.

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
