Medical Policy

Computer-Aided Evaluation of Malignancy with Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Breast

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Policy Number: 578
BCBSA Reference Number: 6.01.45

Related Policies
- MRI of the Breast, #230

Policy

Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Computer-aided evaluation (CAE) for interpretation of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast is INVESTIGATIONAL.

Medicare Members: Managed Care HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM
Computer-aided evaluation (CAE) for interpretation of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast for Medicare HMO Blue and Medicare PPO Blue is not covered in accordance with the CMS LCD.

Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Category III CPT Codes (L18917)

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 Blue℠

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>
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<tr>
<th>CPT codes</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>0159T</td>
<td>Computer-aided detection, including computer algorithm analysis of MRI image data for lesion detection/characterization, pharmacokinetic analysis, with further physician review for interpretation, breast MRI</td>
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Description

Magnetic Resource Imaging (MRI) of the breast is suggested as an alternative or adjunct to mammography or other screening and diagnostic tests because of its high sensitivity in detecting breast lesions. However, it has a high false positive rate because of the difficulty in distinguishing between benign and malignant lesions. The use of computer-aided evaluation (CAE) is intended to improve the specificity of MRI in detecting or measuring malignant tissue.

Radiologists view a large number of MRI images to detect suspicious areas and subsequently analyze the enhancement pattern. However, there may be variations across radiologists in the regions and definitions of interest selected thus affecting consistent interpretation of malignant lesions. It is suggested that CAE systems, by providing analysis of the enhancement pattern using color coding, could allow for more systematic examination and decreased variability among radiologists' interpretations.

Examples of CAE systems for use with MRI of the breast include the 3TP Software Option and SpectraLook™ with CADVue™ from CAD Sciences, CADstream™ from Merger Healthcare, DynaCAD from Invivo Corp. All CAE systems for evaluation of breast malignancy with MRI are considered investigational regardless of the commercial name, the manufacturer or FDA approval status.

Summary

Research continues on efforts to improve the ability of CAE systems to provide information that increases diagnostic accuracy. Different approaches include selecting the “most suspect” enhancement pattern of a lesion versus the distribution of different enhancement patterns within a lesion; use of textural analysis of lesions; and expansion of the use of CAE to help distinguish the type of breast cancer and whether it has metastasized. Until research is conducted to evaluate the clinical utility of these approaches on health outcomes, CAE for interpretation of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast is investigational.

Policy History

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/2013</td>
<td>New references from BCBSA National medical policy.</td>
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</table>
No changes to policy statements.

No changes to policy statements.

10/20/2010  New policy describing on-going non-coverage.

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


