ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF SKIN LESIONS

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member’s specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

BLUE CROSS®, BLUE SHIELD® and the Cross and Shield Symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. All other trademarks and service marks contained in this guideline are the property of their respective owners, which are not affiliated with BCBSAZ.

Description:

High frequency ultrasound transducers (20-100 MHz) can distinguish between the epidermis, dermis and underlying connective tissue. Ultrasound has been investigated as a technique to evaluate skin lesions.
ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF SKIN LESIONS (cont.)

Criteria:

- Ultrasonographic evaluation of skin lesions is considered experimental or investigational based upon insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes.

- Ultrasonographic evaluation as a technique to assess photoaging or skin rejuvenation techniques is considered cosmetic and not eligible for coverage.

Resources:

Resources prior to 03/05/13 may be requested from the BCBSAZ Medical Policy and Technology Research Department.

