MEASUREMENT OF EXHALED NITRIC OXIDE AND EXHALED BREATH CONDENSATE

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.

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Description:

Measurement of exhaled nitric oxide (NO) has been investigated as a tool in the management of respiratory disorders, including asthma. Suggested uses in the management of asthma include assessing response to anti-inflammatory treatment, monitoring compliance with treatment and predicting exacerbations. Measurement of exhaled NO has also been investigated in the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic cough.

Exhaled breath condensate (EBC) pH indicates the acidity and alkalinity of water vapor created by the lungs. Evaluation of EBC components has also been investigated as a tool in the management of respiratory disorders, including asthma.
MEASUREMENT OF EXHALED NITRIC OXIDE AND EXHALED BREATH CONDENSATE (cont.)

Criteria:

- Measurement of exhaled nitric oxide (NO) in the diagnosis and management of respiratory disorders is considered experimental or investigational based upon insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes.
  
  These respiratory disorders include, but are not limited to:
  
  - Asthma
  - Chronic cough
  - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

- Measurement of exhaled breath condensate (EBC) in the diagnosis and management of respiratory disorders is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

  These respiratory disorders include, but are not limited to:
  
  - Asthma
  - Chronic cough
  - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
MEASUREMENT OF EXHALED NITRIC OXIDE AND EXHALED BREATH CONDENSATE (cont.)

Resources:


2. American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology, AAAAI/ACAAI Joint Statement of Support of the ATS Clinical Practice Guideline: Interpretation of Exhaled Nitric Oxide for Clinical Applications. 02/01/2012 2012.


MEASUREMENT OF EXHALED NITRIC OXIDE AND EXHALED BREATH CONDENSATE (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


