Policy Name: Bioimpedance Spectroscopy (BIS) for Detection of Lymphedema
Current Policy Effective Date: 7/1/2016

Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member’s plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member’s plan document, the member’s plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare, Medicaid and MinnesotaCare members, this policy will apply unless these programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

Coverage Policy
Bioimpedance spectroscopy devices for detection of lymphedema are investigative and therefore NOT COVERED.

Description
Lymphedema is an accumulation of fluid and swelling of tissues due to insufficient drainage of fluid by the lymphatic system. Conventional clinical methods to detect and assess lymphedema include serial measurements of water displacement volume or limb circumference. However, a number of newer techniques are also under investigation, including bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS) analysis. BIS analysis is a non-invasive technology that measures the resistance of the body’s tissues to the flow of an electrical current. Electrodes, placed on the wrists or ankles of the patient, are connected to a hand-held measurement unit via wires. An imperceptible alternating electrical current is passed through the body between the electrodes. The impedance is measured at one or more frequencies, downloaded to a computer, and then analyzed using proprietary software. By measuring both the affected and unaffected limbs, the patient acts as their own control. BIS, which is typically performed on an outpatient basis, is purported to ascertain the composition of the measured tissues, in particular the fluid content of the tissue. Proponents of BIS theorize that the technology can detect developing lymphedema before any clinical signs are visible, allowing for early treatment and less severe chronic disease.

FDA Approval
In 2007 and 2008, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued 510(k) clearance for the ImpediMed L-Dex® U400 (ImpediMed, Ltd., Queensland, Australia). The FDA cleared the device to “aid in the clinical assessment of unilateral lymphedema of the arm in women. The device is not intended to diagnose or predict lymphedema of an extremity.”

Prior Authorization
Prior authorization is not applicable. Claims for this service are subject to retrospective review and denial of coverage, as investigative services are not eligible for reimbursement.
Coding Considerations
Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT Codes:
93702 - Bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS), extracellular fluid analysis for lymphedema assessment(s)

Original Effective Date: 5/1/2013

Re-Review Date(s): 10/30/2015 – administrative update – coding
4/20/2016