Policy Name: Hair Analysis in the Clinical Setting
Effective Date: 2/17/2020

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 and Minnesota Health Care Programs, this policy will apply unless those 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
Hair analysis in the clinical setting is investigative and unproven, and therefore NOT COVERED. There is insufficient reliable evidence in the form of high quality peer-reviewed medical literature to establish the efficacy or effects on health care outcomes.

Note: See also related Medica coverage policy, Laboratory Tests.
Note: This policy is no longer scheduled for regular review of the scientific literature.

Description
Hair analysis testing is routinely used in the toxicology and forensics settings to test for arsenic poisoning and the presence of opiates and other drugs including marijuana, amphetamines, and cocaine.

Multi-elemental hair analysis in the clinical setting has been proposed to determine the levels of minerals, metals, or vitamins to detect deficiencies or toxicity. This is often followed by chelation or nutrition therapy.

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:
P2031 - Hair analysis (excluding arsenic)
84999 - Unlisted chemistry procedure

Original Effective Date: 3/1/2008

Re-Review Date(s): 10/26/2010
11/26/2013
11/16/2016
11/20/2019
2/17/2020 – administrative update; format

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