Medica Coverage Policy

Policy Name: Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Current Policy Effective Date: 5/1/2016

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

Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) for screening, diagnosis or evaluation of treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is investigative and therefore NOT COVERED.

Description

Single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) is a type of nuclear imaging test that uses a radioactive substance, a special camera, and a computer to create three-dimensional pictures of the brain. SPECT may be used to measure relationships between activity in certain areas of the brain and specific mental functions. Consequently, it is purported to be useful in diagnosing or assessing individuals thought to exhibit characteristics of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), a term given to describe a cluster of behavioral characteristics which include impaired attention, distractibility, impulsivity, and hypo- or hyperactivity. However, studies demonstrating improved clinical outcomes due to SPECT are limited.

FDA Approval

Several SPECT scanning devices have received FDA 510(k) clearance.

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
78607 - Brain imaging, tomographic (SPECT)

Original Effective Date: 3/1/2013

Re-Review Date(s): 2/17/2016