Medica Coverage Policy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy Name:</th>
<th>Upright Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) (Standing/Seated/Weight Bearing/Positional MRI)</th>
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<td>Current Policy Effective Date:</td>
<td>5/1/2016</td>
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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

Upright magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), also called standing, seated, weight bearing, vertical, or positional MRI, is investigative and therefore NOT COVERED.

Description

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) traditionally involves imaging a patient who is lying down and holding very still. A variety of circumstances can make this difficult for a patient. Standard MRIs use axial-loading devices to simulate the position of the spine if the patient were in a standing position. Upright MRI allows a patient to be imaged in various positions. Potential benefits include more comfort and versatility for patients with special needs such as those who suffer from claustrophobia or limited movement. Currently available upright MRI scanners have a magnetic field strength of 0.35 Tesla-0.6 Tesla. Most conventional MR imagers in clinical use have a magnetic field strength of 1.5 Tesla.

FDA Approval

The U.S. Food and Drug administration has approved upright MRI devices through a 510(k) process including the FONAR™ Upright™ MRI (FONAR Corp.) and the GE 0.35T Signa® Ovation with Excite Magnetic Resonance System (GE Medical Systems). Several low-field devices have been approved by the FDA for extremity MRI. These include the G-Scan and G-Scan Brio, Artoscan™-C; C-Scan™; and E-Scan™ XQ.

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
76498 - Unlisted magnetic resonance procedure (eg, diagnostic, interventional).

Original Effective Date: 5/1/2007
Re-Review Date(s): 1/26/2010
1/22/2013
2/17/2016