ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAMS (EEG)
MED205.008
POSTED DATE: 6/9/2004
EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/30/2004

COVERAGE:

The ambulatory cassette recorded electroencephalogram (EEG), completed over 24 hours, is considered medically necessary when used:
1. In conjunction with ambulatory electrocardiogram (ECG) recordings for seizures suspected to be of cardiogenic origin;
2. In conjunction with electro-oculogram (EOG) and electromyogram (EMG) recordings for suspected sleep disturbances;
3. For quantification of seizures in patient who experience frequent absence seizures;
4. In documentation of seizures precipitated by naturally occurring cyclic events or environmental stimuli which are not reproducible in the hospital or clinic setting.

Ambulatory cassette recorded EEG, completed over 24 hours is considered not medically necessary when used in the following circumstances:
1. For the study of neonates or unattended, uncooperative patients;
2. In localization of seizure focus/foci when the symptoms and/or other EEG recordings indicate the presence of bilateral generalization;
3. For final evaluation of patients who are being considered as candidates for resective surgery.

EEG video monitoring is considered medically necessary when used to confirm the diagnosis of complex seizures where treatment is defined by the seizure type and seizure events may not occur frequently enough to allow direct observation by a trained observer. EEG video monitoring is useful for patients where a diagnosis could not be made on the basis of a neurological examination, routine EEG and ambulatory EEG monitoring.

DESCRIPTION:

An EEG is a recording of the electrical current potentials produced by brain cells and detected by electrodes placed on the scalp. Variations in wave characteristics correlate with neurological conditions and are used to diagnose conditions.

With identification and classification of brain waves, the analysis of data provides information useful in mapping the brain and various areas involved with body function with relation to disease states.

EEG's can be transmitted by telephone, in which the electrical brain activity is recorded and transmitted to an off site center for analysis and report; or the EEG can be transmitted by radio or wire as in the diagnosis of complex seizure variants which require inpatient monitoring, but do not require the patient to be bed bound.
EEG's may also be recorded by a twenty-four hour ambulatory cassette. This method of recording offers the ability to gather data on a long term, outpatient basis. Electrodes, with at least four recording channels are secured to the patient. The cassette recorder is attached to the patient's waist or on a shoulder harness. Electrical activity is recorded and analyzed through an audio amplifier system and video monitor.

EEG video monitoring is the simultaneous recording of the EEG and video monitoring of patient behavior. This allows for correlation of ictal (during a seizure) and interictal (between seizures) electrical events with demonstrated or recorded seizure symptomology. This type of monitoring allows the patient's face or entire body to be displayed on a video screen.

RATIONAL:
None

PRICING:
None

REFERENCES:

Claus, J.J., Kwa, V.I., et al. Slowing on quantitative spectral EEG is
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http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/in/in0002100toc.html.

DISCLAIMER:

State and federal law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, takes precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Any benefits are subject to the payment of premiums for the date on which services are rendered. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.
HMO Blue Texas physicians who are contracted/affiliated with a capitated IPA/medical group must contact the IPA/medical group for information regarding HMO claims/reimbursement information and other general polices and procedures.