



Status

Active

Medical and Behavioral Health Policy

Section: Medicine

Policy Number: II-54

Effective Date: 04/23/2014

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota medical policies do not imply that members should not receive specific services based on the recommendation of their provider. These policies govern coverage and not clinical practice. Providers are responsible for medical advice and treatment of patients. Members with specific health care needs should consult an appropriate health care professional.

QUANTITATIVE SENSORY TESTING

Description: Quantitative sensory testing (QST) systems are proposed for the noninvasive assessment and quantification of sensory nerve function in patients with symptoms of, or the potential for, neurologic damage or disease. QST systems measure and quantify the amount of physical stimuli required for sensory perception to occur in the patient. Stimuli used in QST include touch, pressure, pain, thermal (warm and cold), or vibratory stimuli.

QST systems include the following:

- Current perception threshold testing, also called sensory nerve conduction threshold (sNCT) testing, quantifies the sensory threshold to transcutaneous electrical stimulation. The Neurometer[®] Current Perception Threshold (Neurotron, Inc.) and the Medi-Dx 7000[®] (Neuro Diagnostic Associates) are examples of these devices.
- Pressure-specified sensory testing is a method to assess nerve function by quantifying the thresholds of pressure detected with light, static, and moving touch. The Nk Pressure-Specified Sensory Device[™] is used in pressure-specified sensory testing.
- Vibration perception threshold testing uses a vibrometer has to measure sensitivity to vibration. One example of this device is the Vibration Perception Threshold (VPT) meter.
- Thermal perception threshold testing uses heat levels to evaluate neuropathy. Examples of these devices are the Thermal Sensory Analyzer (TSA), and the Case IV Computer Aided Sensory Evaluator which provides vibration and thermal threshold testing.

Policy: The use of the quantitative sensory testing is considered **INVESTIGATIVE** including but not limited to current perception threshold testing, pressure-specified sensory device testing, vibration perception threshold testing, and thermal threshold testing

due to the lack of clinical evidence demonstrating its impact on improved health outcomes.

Coverage:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota medical policies apply generally to all Blue Cross and Blue Plus plans and products. Benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain services addressed in the medical policies.

Medicaid products and some self-insured plans may have additional policies and prior authorization requirements. Receipt of benefits is subject to all terms and conditions of the member's summary plan description (SPD). As applicable, review the provisions relating to a specific coverage determination, including exclusions and limitations. Blue Cross reserves the right to revise, update and/or add to its medical policies at any time without notice.

For Medicare NCD and/or Medicare LCD, please consult CMS or National Government Services websites.

Refer to the Pre-Certification/Pre-Authorization section of the Medical Behavioral Health Policy Manual for the full list of services, procedures, prescription drugs, and medical devices that require Pre-certification/Pre-Authorization. Note that services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial of claims may result if criteria are not met.

Coding:

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:

0106T Quantitative sensory testing (QST), testing and interpretation per extremity; using touch pressure stimuli to assess large diameter sensation

0107T Quantitative sensory testing (QST), testing and interpretation per extremity; using vibration stimuli to assess large diameter fiber sensation

0108T Quantitative sensory testing (QST), testing and interpretation per extremity; using cooling stimuli to assess small nerve fiber sensation and hyperalgesia

0109T Quantitative sensory testing (QST), testing and interpretation per extremity; using heat-pain stimuli to assess small nerve fiber sensation and hyperalgesia

0110T Quantitative sensory testing (QST), testing and interpretation per extremity; using other stimuli to assess sensation

**Policy
History:**

Developed August 10, 2005

Most recent history:

Reviewed April 13, 2011

Reviewed April 11, 2012

Revised April 10, 2013

Reviewed April 9, 2014

**Cross
Reference:**

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