blue of california

Medical Policy

Sensory Integration Therapy	
Type: Investigational / Experimental	**Policy Specific Section:** Medicine
Original Policy Date: June 7, 2000	**Effective Date:** August 23, 2013*

A review of the literature through June of 2013 does not change the position statement. This policy is no longer scheduled for routine literature review and update.

Definitions of Decision Determinations

Medically Necessary: A treatment, procedure or drug is medically necessary only when it has been established as safe and effective for the particular symptoms or diagnosis, is not investigational or experimental, is not being provided primarily for the convenience of the patient or the provider, and is provided at the most appropriate level to treat the condition.

Investigational/Experimental: A treatment, procedure or drug is investigational when it has not been recognized as safe and effective for use in treating the particular condition in accordance with generally accepted professional medical standards. This includes services where approval by the federal or state governmental is required prior to use, but has not yet been granted.

Split Evaluation: Blue Shield of California / Blue Shield of California Life & Health Insurance Company (Blue Shield) policy review can result in a Split Evaluation, where a treatment, procedure or drug will be considered to be investigational for certain indications or conditions, but will be deemed safe and effective for other indications or conditions, and therefore potentially medically necessary in those instances.

Description

Sensory integration (SI) therapy has been proposed as a treatment for developmental disorders in patients with established dysfunction of sensory processing. The goal of SI therapy is to improve the way the brain processes and adapts to sensory information, as opposed to teaching specific

skills. Therapy usually involves activities that provide vestibular, proprioceptive, and tactile stimuli, which are selected to match specific sensory processing deficits of the child. Treatment sessions are usually delivered in a one-on-one setting by occupational therapists with special training unique to SI theory.

Policy

Sensory integration therapy is considered **investigational** for all indications.

Internal Information

There is an MD Determination Form for this Medical Policy. It can be found on the following Web page:
http://myworkpath.com/healthcareservices/MedicalOperations/PSR_Determination_Pages.htm

Documentation Required for Clinical Review
• No records required

The materials provided to you are guidelines used by this plan to authorize, modify, or deny care for persons with similar illness or conditions. Specific care and treatment may vary depending on individual need and the benefits covered under your contract. These Policies are subject to change as new information becomes available.

Click here to view the appendix for this policy

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