Medical Policy
Ultrasound for the Evaluation of Paranasal Sinuses

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Policy Number: 445
BCBSA Reference Number: 6.01.14A
NCD/LCD: NA

Related Policies
None

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members

Ultrasound in the evaluation of paranasal sinuses is INVESTIGATIONAL.

Prior Authorization Information

Inpatient
• For services described in this policy, precertification/preauthorization IS REQUIRED for all products if the procedure is performed inpatient.

Outpatient
• For services described in this policy, see below for products where prior authorization might be required if the procedure is performed outpatient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outpatient</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial PPO and Indemnity</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare HMO BlueSM</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare PPO BlueSM</td>
<td>This is not a covered service.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes
The following codes are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.
Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

**HCPCS Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS codes</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>S9024</td>
<td>Paranasal sinus ultrasound</td>
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**Description**

Ultrasound for the evaluation of paranasal sinuses has been proposed as a diagnostic procedure used to confirm the diagnosis of and the presence of sinus fluid in cases of sinusitis in demonstrating mucosal wall thickening, focal soft tissue masses, and complex collections. Ultrasound is nonionizing and non-invasive when compared to the conventional diagnostic alternatives of radiography or sinuscopy for sinus evaluation.

**Summary**

Ultrasonography has been proposed as a convenient office-based alternative with the added advantage of low radiation exposure and a better discriminator between mucosal thickening and fluid retention. However, a review of the literature did not identify any published studies that adequately explored the diagnostic capabilities of ultrasonography in comparison to other imaging options. There is inadequate evidence to demonstrate that ultrasound can improve patient management or outcomes.

**Policy History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2020</td>
<td>Policy updated with literature review through March 1, 2020, no references added. Policy statements unchanged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/2014</td>
<td>Language transferred from Medical Policy 007, Ultrasound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2009</td>
<td>BCBSA National medical policy review. No changes to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies**

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

- Medical Policy Terms of Use
- Managed Care Guidelines
- Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
- Clinical Exception Process
- Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

**References**