



MASSACHUSETTS

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Medical Policy

Optical Coherence Tomography for Imaging of Coronary Arteries

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Policy Number: 915

BCBSA Reference Number: 2.02.29

NCD/LCD: NA

Related Policies

- Anterior Eye Segment Optical Imaging, #084

Policy

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

Optical coherence tomography is considered **INVESTIGATIONAL** when used as an adjunct to percutaneous coronary interventions with stenting.

Optical coherence tomography is considered **INVESTIGATIONAL** in all other situations, including but not limited to, risk stratification of intracoronary atherosclerotic plaques and follow-up evaluation of stenting.

Prior Authorization Information

Pre-service approval is required for all inpatient services for all products.

See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required for outpatient services.

Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.

No indicates that prior authorization is not required.

N/A indicates that this service is primarily performed in an inpatient setting.

Outpatient

Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)	This is not a covered service.
Commercial PPO and Indemnity	This is not a covered service.
Medicare HMO BlueSM	This is not a covered service.
Medicare PPO BlueSM	This is not a covered service.

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes

CPT Codes

There is no specific CPT code for this service.

Description

Optical coherence tomography (OCT) is an imaging technique that uses near-infrared light to image the coronary arteries. Potential applications in cardiology include evaluating the characteristics of coronary artery plaques for the purpose of risk stratification and following coronary stenting to determine the success of the procedure.

Summary

Optical coherence tomography (OCT) is an imaging technique that has some advantages over intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) for imaging coronary arteries. It has a higher resolution and provides images with greater detail for accessible structures compared to IVUS. Case series have demonstrated that OCT can be performed with a high success rate and few complications. Head-to-head comparisons of OCT and IVUS report that OCT picks up additional abnormalities that are not detected by IVUS, implying that OCT is a more sensitive test compared to IVUS.

As an adjunct to PCI, OCT may improve upon the ability to pick up abnormalities compared to IVUS, and this may lead to changes in management. However, the current evidence is limited and includes relatively small numbers of patients who have received OCT. As a result, it is not possible to determine the degree of improvement with OCT, or the clinical significance of this improvement. Therefore, the use of OCT as an adjunct to PCI is considered investigational.

For the indications of risk stratification of coronary plaques and follow-up of stenting, OCT may also be more accurate than IVUS for imaging of superficial structures. However, the clinical utility of IVUS has not been demonstrated for these indications, since test results do not lead to changes in management that improve outcomes. Therefore, clinical utility has not been demonstrated for OCT for the same reasons. As a result, OCT is considered investigational for risk stratification of coronary plaques and for follow-up post-stent implantation.

Policy History

Date	Action
1/2017	Clarified coding information for the 2017 code changes.
3/2015	New references added from BCBSA National medical policy.
5/2014	New references from BCBSA National medical policy.
2/2013	New policy describing non-coverage. Effective 02/04/13

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

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