Subject: Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT)*

Effective Date: February 27, 2007

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: SPECT is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc, when performed for indications in this policy.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to delineate indications for a specific imaging modality.

Procedure:

A. The following are indications for which SPECT is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.:

1. Cardiac Conditions
   
   a. Diagnosis and/or assessment of severity of coronary artery disease in patients with uninterpretable resting ECG and limited exercise tolerance
   
   b. Assessment of myocardial viability prior to referral for myocardial revascularization procedures

2. Non-cardiac Conditions
   
   a. Assessment of hepatic hemangioma(s)
b. In patients with seizure disorder, as an alternative to PET scanning in presurgical detection of seizure focus
c. Distinction of bone infection from soft tissue infection
d. Differentiation, in bone lesions, among infection, neoplasm, vascular insufficiency or trauma
e. Abscess localization
f. Differentiation of necrotic or radiation-injured or inflammatory tissue from brain neoplasm
g. Differentiation of necrotic tissue from lymphoma
h. Initial staging and assessment of response of lymphoma to chemotherapy
i. Diagnosis and staging of neuroendocrine tumors
j. Parathyroid imaging

B. For the following conditions, SPECT is NOT reimbursable because there is not a satisfactory body of peer-reviewed literature supporting its use:

1. Dementia: Initial or differential diagnosis
2. Spinal disorders other than osteomyelitis
3. Stroke
4. Internal carotid artery scan during temporary balloon occlusion
5. Stress fractures
6. Assessment of pervasive developmental disorder, including autism and ADHD
7. Assessment of personality disorders
8. Differentiation of Parkinson’s disease from other Parkinsonian syndromes
9. Assessment and follow-up for suspected subacute or chronic central nervous system Lyme disease
10. Chronic fatigue syndrome
11. Malignancies other than those listed as reimbursable
12. Neuropsychiatric disorders without evidence of cerebrovascular disease
C. **CPT codes covered** by this policy include the following:

1. 78205 SPECT of liver
2. 78206 SPECT of liver with vascular flow
3. 78320 SPECT of bone and joint
4. 78464 SPECT myocardial perfusion, single
5. 78465 SPECT myocardial perfusion, multiple
6. 78469 SPECT myocardial imaging, infarct avid, planar
7. 78494 SPECT cardiac imaging, wall motion
8. 78607 SPECT of brain, complete
9. 78803 SPECT tumor distribution
10. 78807 SPECT inflammatory process localization

D. **CPT codes excluded** by this policy include the following:

1. 78647 SPECT cerebrospinal fluid flow
2. 78710 SPECT kidney morphology

References


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD); when there is discordance with SPD, provisions of SPD take precedence.*