Dynamic Spinal Visualization

Number 6.01.46
Effective Date November 10, 2015
Revision Date(s) 08/31/16; 11/10/15; 1/10/14; 11/11/13; 11/13/12; 11/10/11; 11/09/10; 11/10/09; 04/08/08; 02/13/07
Replaces 6.01.508

Policy

The use of dynamic spinal visualization is considered investigational.

Related Policies

8.03.501 Chiropractic Services

Policy Guidelines

Coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>76120</td>
<td>Cineradiography/videoradiography, except where specifically included</td>
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<tr>
<td>76125</td>
<td>Cineradiography/videoradiography to complement routine examination (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>76496</td>
<td>Unlisted fluoroscopic procedure (eg, diagnostic, interventional)</td>
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CPT code 76120 can be used once per anatomic area with modifier -59 (distinct procedural service) appended to the code when it is used for additional anatomic regions.

Description

Dynamic spinal visualization is a general term addressing different imaging technologies that allow the simultaneous visualization of movement of internal body structures such as the spine (vertebrae) with external body movement. These technologies have been proposed for the evaluation of spinal disorders including neck and back pain.
Background
Most spinal visualization methods use x-rays to create images either on film, video monitor, or computer screen. Digital motion x-ray involves the use of either film x-ray or computer-based x-ray "snapshots" taken in sequence as a patient moves. Film x-rays are digitized into a computer for manipulation, while computer-based x-rays are automatically created in a digital format. Using a computer program, the digitized snapshots are then put in order and played on a video monitor, creating a moving image of the inside of the body. This moving image can then be evaluated by a physician alone or by using a computer that evaluates several aspects of the body's structure, such as intervertebral flexion and extension, to determine the presence or absence of abnormalities.

Videofluoroscopy and cineradiography are different names for the same procedure, which uses fluoroscopy to create real-time video images of internal structures of the body. Unlike standard x-rays, which take a single picture at one point in time, fluoroscopy provides motion pictures of the body. The results of these techniques can be displayed on a video monitor as the procedure is being conducted, as well as recorded, to allow computer analysis or evaluation at a later time. Like digital motion x-ray, the results can be evaluated by a physician alone or with the assistance of computer analysis software.

Dynamic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is also being developed for imaging of the cervical spine. This technique uses an MRI-compatible stepless motorized positioning device (NeuroSwing, Fresenius/Siemens) and a real-time true fast imaging with steady-state precession sequence to provide passive kinematic imaging of the cervical spine. The quality of the images is lower than a typical MRI sequence, but is proposed to be adequate to observe changes in the alignment of vertebral bodies, the width of the spinal canal, and the spinal cord. Higher resolution imaging can be performed at the end positions of flexion and extension.

Regulatory Status
In 2012, The KineGraph VMA™ (Vertebral Motion Analyzer, Ortho Kinematics) was cleared for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through the 510(k) process. The system includes a Motion Normalizer™ for patient positioning, standard fluoroscopic imaging, and automated image recognition software. Processing of scans by Ortho Kinematics is charged separately.

FDA product code: LLZ.

Scope
Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.

Benefit Application
N/A

Rationale
This evidence review was created in 2006 and updated periodically using the MEDLINE database. The most recent literature update was performed through August 11, 2015.
At the time this review was created, the literature evaluating the clinical utility of dynamic spinal visualization techniques, including digital motion x-ray and cineradiography (videofluoroscopy) for the evaluation and assessment of the spine, was limited to a few studies involving small numbers of participants. (1-3) No evidence was identified to indicate that clinical use improves health outcomes. While there were reports of the correlation of this technique to disc degeneration, (4) no studies had evaluated the incremental value of this information compared with the standard evaluation. In addition, although some studies had shown that abnormalities in spinal motion are found in individuals with low back pain, particularly those with spondylolisthesis, the test did not always separate those with disease from those without disease. (5)

As of the most recent literature update, the evidence on dynamic spinal visualization remains predominantly of comparisons of spine kinetics in patients with neck or back pain with healthy controls. For example, Teyhen et al. compared 20 patients with lower back pain with 20 healthy controls to provide construct validity for a clinical prediction rule that would identify patients likely to benefit from stabilization exercises, (6) while Ahmadi et al. used digital videofluoroscopy to compare 15 patients with lower back pain and 15 controls to assist in identifying better criteria for diagnosis of lumbar segmental instability. (7) Breen et al. reported on objective spinal motion imaging assessment in 30 healthy volunteers using a passive motion table and automated frame-to-frame registration of vertebral position. (8) Another study used dynamic fluoroscopy to assess lateral flexion in 30 healthy controls, noting that data pooling from multiple studies would be needed to establish a complete database of reference limits from asymptomatic individuals. (9)

A feasibility study of dynamic magnetic resonance imaging was reported in 2012. (10) This study used a prototype of the NeuroSwing positioning device and evaluated cervical spine kinematics in 32 patients who had previously undergone anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF). The quality of images was considered to be adequate, although there was some artifact from the titanium implants used in ACDF.

Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials
A search of ClinicalTrials.gov in August 2015 did not identify any ongoing or unpublished trials that would likely influence this review.

Summary of Evidence
The evidence on dynamic spinal visualization in patients with back or neck pain includes comparisons of spine kinetics in patients with neck or back pain with healthy controls. Relevant outcomes are test accuracy, symptoms, morbidity events, and functional outcomes. Techniques include digital motion x-rays, cineradiography/videofluoroscopy, or dynamic magnetic resonance imaging of the spine. No literature was identified on the diagnostic accuracy of this technology in a relevant population of patients. No evidence was identified on the effect of this technology on symptoms or functional outcomes. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements
No guidelines or statements were identified.

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations
Not applicable.

Medicare National Coverage
There is no national coverage determination (NCD). In the absence of an NCD, coverage decisions are left to the discretion of local Medicare carriers.

References

Coding

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Type of Service: Radiology
Place of Service: Outpatient

Appendix

N/A

History

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<td>04/08/08</td>
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removed and reordered. The policy statement remains unchanged.

11/10/11  Replace policy – Policy updated with literature review through July 2011; no new references added; policy statement unchanged. ICD-10 codes added.
06/26/12  Related policies updated with the addition of 6.01.513.
09/26/12  Update Related Policy – Add 7.01.126; ICD-10 codes are now effective 10/01/2014.
11/27/12  Replace policy - Policy updated with literature review through July 2012; reference 9 added; policy statement unchanged.
02/01/13  Update Related Policies, add 8.03.501.
06/14/13  Update Related Policies. Remove 6.01.513 as it was archived.
01/21/14  Update Related Policies. Add 7.01.551.
11/20/14  Annual Review. Policy updated with literature review through July 24, 2014; policy statement unchanged.
08/31/16  Coding Update. Add CPT code 76496.

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PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592. TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentinquiries@Premera.com

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

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Hmoob (Hmong):

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Daytoy a Pakdaak ket naglaon iti Napateg nga Impormasion. Daytoy a pakdaak mabalin nga adda ket naglaon iti napateg nga impormasion maipanggep iti aplikasyonoyo wenny coverage babaen iti Premera Blue Cross. Daytoy ket mabalin dagiti importante a pelta iti daytoy a pakdaak. Mabalin nga adda rumbeng nga aramidenyo nga addang sakbay dagiti partikular a naituding nga aldaw tapno mapagtalainedyo ti coverage ti salun-ayto wenny tunglong kadagiti gastos. Adda karbenganayo a mangala iti daytoy nga impormasion ken tunglong iti bukodoy a pagasasao nga awan ti bayadanyo. Tumawag ti numero nga 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

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