Multichannel Intraluminal Esophageal Impedance with pH Monitoring

Effective Date: 3/1/2016

Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member’s plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member’s plan document, the member’s plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare, Medicaid and MinnesotaCare members, this policy will apply unless these programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

Coverage Policy
Multichannel intraluminal esophageal impedance with pH monitoring is investigative and therefore NOT COVERED.

Note: See also related Medica Coverage Policy: Gastrointestinal Monitoring System (Smart Pill®)

Description
Multichannel intraluminal impedance (MII) measures the resistance (impedance) to alternating current of the content of the esophageal lumen at several sites along the length of the esophagus. Resistance decreases when liquid is present in the lumen. Reflux is detected as a change in resistance that originates near the sphincter and travels up the esophagus. Impedance measurements alone do not determine pH, so the impedance measurement is combined with pH electrodes at multiple locations on the catheter inserted into the esophagus. Combined impedance and pH data help to quantify the amount of reflux and evaluate the relationship between symptoms and reflux episodes both acid and nonacid. The systems include a data collector and an impedance/pH probe. The evaluation is generally conducted over 24 hours with the patient in their normal setting.

FDA Approval
Multichannel intraluminal impedance (MII) testing is a procedure and is not regulated by the Food & Drug Administration. However, the devices used to perform MII fall under the FDA’s 510 (k) Premarket Approval process. They are classified as gastrointestinal motility monitoring systems. Two such devices, the Sleuth and ZepHyr Impedance/pH Monitoring Systems (Sandhill Scientific, Inc.), have been cleared for marketing under the 510(k) approval for the InSight Model S980000 Gastrointestinal Motility System (k012232) June 7, 2002.
Prior Authorization
Prior authorization is not applicable. Claims for this service are subject to retrospective review and denial of coverage, as investigative services are not eligible for reimbursement.

Coding Considerations
Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT Codes
- 91037 - Esophageal function test, gastroesophageal reflux test with nasal catheter intraluminal impedance electrode(s) placement, recording. Analysis and interpretation
- 91038 - prolonged, (greater than 1 hours, up to 24 hours)

Original Effective Date: 2/1/2010
Re-Review Date(s): 8/20/2012
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