



Medical Coverage Policy

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Coverage Policy Number..... 0558

Category III Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide

guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Each coverage request should be reviewed on its own merits. Medical directors are expected to exercise clinical judgment and have discretion in making individual coverage determinations. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

Overview

This Coverage Policy addresses CPT® Category III Codes, which are a set of temporary (T) codes for emerging technologies, services, and procedures. They have an alpha character as the 5th character in the string (i.e., four digits followed by the letter T) and are also referred to as T Codes. There may be some T codes that are considered medically appropriate based on peer-reviewed scientific literature. Certain T codes which may be recommended for coverage if coverage criteria are met are addressed in the relevant coverage policies listed under the Related Coverage Resources heading above. Therefore, unless there is a Cigna Coverage Policy that specifically extends coverage to a particular Category III code, the code would generally be considered experimental, investigational, or unproven.

Coverage Policy

Because of the specific purpose CPT Category III codes serve for data collection, the items, services or procedures represented by these codes are considered experimental, investigational or unproven, unless coverage for a particular Category III code is separately addressed in a Cigna Coverage Policy.

Please refer to Related Coverage Resources above for additional policies that address Category III codes.

General Background

CPT Category III codes are a set of temporary (T) codes assigned to emerging technologies, services, and procedures. These codes are intended to be used for data collection to substantiate more widespread usage or to provide documentation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process. Category III codes can be identified by the T alpha character that follows the four initial numerical digits (i.e., four digits followed by the letter T). These codes are also referred to as T Codes (American Medical Association [AMA], 2019).

The use of a Category III code allows physicians and other qualified health care professionals to identify emerging technologies, services and procedures for clinical efficacy, utilization and outcomes. Category III codes are generally archived after five years and may or may not eventually receive a Category I CPT code. If a specific cross-referenced Category I code has not been established at the time of archiving, the service or procedure will be reported with a Category I unlisted code (AMA, 2019).

It is noted by the AMA that a service or procedure represented by a T code does not constitute a finding of support, or lack thereof with regard to clinical efficacy, safety, applicability or clinical practice. Typically, there is a lack of published, peer-review evidence supporting the clinical efficacy, safety, and applicability of these services to clinical practice nor are these services considered an established standard of care.

Related Coverage Policies that consider specific Category III codes medically necessary for some indications include the following:

Coverage Policy	Category III CPT Code(s)
Ambulatory External and Implantable Electrocardiographic Monitoring	0497T, 0498T, 0650T
Angioplasty (Extracranial, Intracranial) and Intracranial Aneurysm Repair	0075T, 0076T
Axicabtagene ciloleucel	0537T, 0538T, 0539T, 0540T
Behavioral Health Coaching and Peer Support Services	0591T, 0592T
Brexucabtagene autoleucel	0537T, 0538T, 0539T, 0540T
Corneal Remodeling for Refractive Errors	0402T
Diabetes Equipment and Supplies	0446T, 0447T, 0448T
Glaucoma Surgical Procedures	0191T, 0376T, 0449T
eviCore Adult Cardiac Imaging guideline	0501T, 0502T, 0503T, 0504T
eviCore Pediatric Cardiac Imaging guideline	
eviCore Adult Head Imaging guideline	0042T
Fecal Bacteriotherapy	0780T
Idcabtagene vicleucel	0537T, 0538T, 0539T, 0540T
Intervertebral Disc (IVD) Prostheses	0095T, 0098T
Intensive Behavioral Interventions	0362T, 0373T
Lisocabtagene maraleucel	0537T, 0538T, 0539T, 0540T
Omnibus Codes	0308T, 0184T, 0583T
Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation	0584T, 0585T, 0586T
Percutaneous Revascularization of the Lower Extremities in Adults	0505T
Preventive Care Services	0403T, 0488T, 0500T
Scar Revision	0479T, 0480T
Tisagenlecleucel	0537T, 0538T, 0539T, 0540T
Transcatheter Heart Valve Procedures	0483T

Medicare Coverage Determinations

	Contractor	Determination Name/Number	Revision Effective Date
NCD		No National Coverage Determination found	
LCD	Wisconsin Physicians	Category III Codes (L35490)	01/01/2022

	Contractor	Determination Name/Number	Revision Effective Date
	Service Insurance Corporation		

Note: Please review the current Medicare Policy for the most up-to-date information.
(NCD = National Coverage Determination; LCD = Local Coverage Determination)

References

1. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) ©2022 American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.
2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) alphabetical index. Accessed Jun 2, 2023. Available at URL address:
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/reports/local-coverage-proposed-lcds-alphabetical-report.aspx?proposedStatus=A&sortBy=title>
3. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) alphabetical index. Accessed Jun 2, 2023. Available at URL address:
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/reports/national-coverage-ncd-report.aspx?chapter=all&sortBy=title>

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