**MEDICAL POLICY**

**SUBJECT:** POSTUROGRAPHY

**POLICY NUMBER:** 2.01.20

**CATEGORY:** Technology Assessment

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 07/02/99

**REVISED DATE:** 02/01/01, 05/16/02, 04/24/03

**ARCHIVED DATE:** 02/19/04

**EDITED DATE:** 11/10/05, 12/21/06, 12/20/07, 12/18/08, 12/17/09, 12/16/10, 12/15/11, 12/20/12, 12/19/13, 12/18/14, 12/17/15, 12/15/16, 12/21/17

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- If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.
- If a commercial product, including an Essential Plan product, covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.
- If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, posturography does not improve patient outcomes and therefore, is considered to be **not medically necessary.**

**POLICY GUIDELINES:**

The Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP/FEP) requires that procedures, devices or laboratory tests approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered investigational and thus, these procedures, devices, or laboratory tests may be assessed only on the basis of their medical necessity.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Posturography is a diagnostic test used to assess balance problems that may be caused by peripheral vestibular or oculovestibular dysfunction. Also known as moving platform posturography, dynamic posturography or Equitest™, the test involves the use of a platform that can be manipulated to assess the patient’s responses to various demands on postural equilibrium control (balance). It attempts to identify disequilibrium due to pathology of the labyrinthine sensory organs (e.g., semicircular canals and otoliths) and the oculovestibular and somatosensory vestibular pathways. It is proposed that posturography is useful to assess progress in patients undergoing rehabilitation for balance disorders and postural deficits.

**RATIONALE:**

Girardi and colleagues evaluated the results of computerized dynamic posturography in a group of 65 elderly patients who had a history of falling. While 78% of patients had abnormal results on computerized dynamic posturography testing, results in a broader group of patients is required to determine whether or not results of computer dynamic posturography can identify those at risk for falling. Baloh and colleagues studied balance control in a group of elderly patients who complained of balance disorders and a group of age-matched controls; the subjects were tested in a variety of situations (e.g., eyes open and closed, while standing on a foam pad to disrupt sensory cues, tilting of the platform, etc.). The authors concluded that posturography data provided little information about the cause of imbalance and did not correlate with the frequency of reported falls. Other authors have pointed out that how results of computerized dynamic posturography may correlate to functional activities, such as gait, is uncertain. For example, measurements of gait, frequently gait velocity, are often used in the elderly to assess balance and mobility. A variety of patient questionnaires have been designed to measure self-perceived dizziness or balance. The correlation between the results of these clinical tests, questionnaires, and computerized dynamic posturography are uncertain.

The contribution of dynamic posturography to the overall assessment and customization of the exercise program is unclear. In particular, the reports do not describe how (or whether) the exercise programs were modified based on specific deficits identified by platform posturography. There are no controlled trials have assessed whether individually customized therapy programs are more effective than generic vestibular exercises. The literature has not demonstrated that posturography provides any improvement in health outcomes over standard physical therapy; it has not been shown to be clinically appropriate for diagnosis or treatment; nor has it demonstrated improved treatment decision making and/or health outcomes based on the results of dynamic posturography.

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CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.

Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/appropriate = (NMN).

CPT: 92548 (NMN) Computerized dynamic posturography

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HCPCS: No specific code

ICD9: 386.10-386.19 Other and unspecified peripheral vertigo  
386.50-386.9 Labyrinthine dysfunction  
780.4 Dizziness and giddiness

ICD10: H81.10-H81.13 Benign paroxysmal vertigo (code range)  
H81.20-H81.23 Vestibular neuronitis (code range)  
H81.311-H81.319 Aural vertigo (code range)  
H81.391-H81.399 Other peripheral vertigo (code range)  
H81.8x1-H81.93 Disorder of vestibular function (code range)  
H82.1-H82.9 Vertiginous syndromes in diseases classified elsewhere (code range)  
H83.2x1-H83.2x9 Labyrinthine dysfunction (code range)  
H83.3x1-H83.3x9 Other specified diseases of inner ear (code range)  
H83.90-H83.93 Unspecified disease of inner ear (code range)

REFERENCES:


Black FO. What can posturography tell us about vestibular function? Ann NY Acad Sci 2001 Oct;942:446-64.


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Harstall C. Computerized dynamic posturography in rehabilitation: has its reliability and validity been established? Physiother Can 2000 Winter;56-63.


**KEY WORDS:**

Balance, Equitest, Posturography, Vestibular dysfunction.

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**CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS**

Based on our review, posturography is not addressed in National or Regional Medicare coverage determinations or policies.