Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Vestibular Function Testing (L28314)

Select the 'Print Record', 'Add to Basket' or 'Email Record' buttons to print the record, to add it to your basket or to email the record.

Contractor Information

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<tr>
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<th>Contractor Type</th>
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<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>01192</td>
<td>MAC - Part B</td>
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LCD Information

Document Information

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<th>LCD ID Number</th>
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<td>L28314</td>
<td>California - Southern</td>
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<th>Oversight Region</th>
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<td>Vestibular Function Testing</td>
<td>Region X</td>
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<th>Contractor’s Determination Number</th>
<th>Original Determination Effective Date</th>
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<td>For services performed on or after 09/02/2008</td>
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Original Determination Ending Date:
For services performed on or after 06/07/2012

Revision Effective Date:
For services performed on or after 06/07/2012
CMS National Coverage Policy

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (SSA), §1862(a)(7), states that Medicare will not cover any services or procedures associated with routine physical checkups.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, §1862(a)(1)(A), allows coverage and payment for only those services that are considered reasonable and necessary.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, §1833(e), prohibits Medicare payment for any claim that lacks the necessary information to process that claim.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, §§1861(ll)(3), (ll)(4)(B) Speech-Language Pathology Services; Audiology Services

CMS Manual System, Pub. 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, §§80.3 and 80.3.1 (CR1573, CR2073), describe coverage for hearing and balance studies. They also define a "qualified audiologist".

CMS Manual System, Pub. 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 3, §3.2.3.2, Determinations made during review.

Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, §§410.32 and 410.33 describe conditions of coverage for diagnostic tests.

HCFA Ruling 95-1 is binding on providers, contractors, appeal levels, and an Administrative Law Judge. Ruling 95-1 describes limitations on the usage of limitation of liability (SSA, §1879). For example, care which exceeds community standards is known to be not payable by Medicare.

CMS Manual System, Publication 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 3, §3.4.1.3, Diagnosis Code Requirement.

Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity

This policy addresses diagnostic testing of the vestibular system. Vestibular tests are tests of function, designed to identify a potential cause of balance problems. Their purpose is to determine if there is a problem with the vestibular portion of the brainstem and inner ear. Studies have documented that in appropriate clinical settings, vestibular tests are more accurate than clinical examination in identifying these disorders. The appropriate clinical setting is described in this policy, including careful evaluation of the patient, rationale for ordering high quality tests, clear communication between the treating physician, consulting physician, and audiologist, interpretation in light of the patient's case, and a plan for use of the results in the patient's care. Diagnostic tests are not payable by Medicare unless directly used in the patient's care.

Vestibular function testing is covered for the purpose of determining the appropriate medical or surgical treatment of disorders in the vestibular system. Other causes of balance problems can be found in other systems including the senses of sight and touch,
proprioception, muscle movement, and from the integration of the sensory input by the
cerebellum. Causes of balance problems can also include low blood pressure, including
postural hypotension, asymmetrical gait due to pain, poor vision, poorly fitting shoes, lack
of concentration on safety in the immediate environment, anxiety, and others.

This policy is being developed in part due to the number of services for vestibular function
tests found by the outgoing contractor as being three times the national average, per 1000
beneficiaries. Roughly two thirds of the services are provided by Independent Diagnostic
Testing Facilities (IDTFs). Utilization alone does not shape policy, rather, medical review
has found high numbers of inappropriate and unnecessary tests. In this policy, the
reasonable and necessary aspects of these tests will be emphasized to help the provider
understand what this A/B MAC will and will not cover.

**VESTIBULAR TESTING**

When a patient presents with complaints of balance problems, a thorough history should
be taken, a complete physical examination should be conducted and a thorough review of
medications should be completed. These expected medical activities can often elicit a
likely cause of the problem. A complete picture of the patient is necessary before testing
decisions can be made. The tests that would identify a common cause of balance
problems should be conducted first, with progression in testing toward the least common
cause of balance problems.

For example, an ECG may show bradycardias or heartblocks. A series of blood pressure
checks may show a pattern related to medication intake time. The patient may be taking
more (or less) medication than ordered because he/she didn’t understand the dosing
instructions.

If the provider sees or suspects a cause that would warrant a referral to a specialist, a
referral would be expected. For example, if an ECG showed cardiac rhythm abnormalities,
a referral to Cardiology would be expected. Any neurological findings on physical
examination could warrant a referral to a neurologist, neurosurgeon, neurotologist, or
similar specialist. Since vestibular disorders are common causes of vertigo, imbalance and
falling, referral to specialists of these disorders may lead to more rapid diagnosis and most
appropriate use of vestibular testing.

**Treating Physician / Billing Provider**

As noted above, vestibular function tests are covered by Medicare only where it is clinically
necessary to rule in or rule out diagnoses of vestibular disorders. A test is clinically
necessary when there is (A) appropriate evaluation and justification prior to the test and
(B) when the test is also likely to affect the course of therapy. In the case where the
ordering/treating physician is not the billing entity, the tests may be ordered in writing only
by the physician who is treating the beneficiary, that is, the physician who is (A) furnishing
a consultation or (B) treating a beneficiary for a specific medical problem and who uses the
results in the management of the beneficiary’s specific medical problem. The treating
physician in question has a relationship with the beneficiary prior to the performance of the
testing and is treating the beneficiary for a specific medical problem for which the tests are
being ordered. Providers of vestibular testing should be aware that this A/B MAC has
encountered high levels of vestibular testing -often ordered or performed by the non-
specialist or IDTF -which were found to be not medically necessary at the contractor,
Hearing Officer, and Administrative Law Judge level.

**Evaluation:** Again, there must be a clinically appropriate evaluation of the patient (history,
physical and medication review) prior to any tests being ordered. In the case where the
billing provider for the tests is not the referring provider, Medicare may request full contact
information for the referring provider, request appropriate evaluation and referral records
from the referring provider, and deny payment for the test if no such records are provided or the records do not document the necessity of the test.

Course of therapy: A test is clinically necessary when it is likely to be used to select or change the course of therapy for the disease. For most patients, these tests will usually lead to forms of treatment such as head positioning exercises, medications, surgery or other clinically accepted interventions, by the treating physician, in the course of therapy for the disease discovered by testing.

Scope of Practice

Diagnostic procedures 92541 through 92548, as described below, may be performed only by licensed audiologists with a physician’s order; by a licensed physician, preferably with certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties in Otolaryngology, Neurology or Otology/Neurology; or by personnel employed “incident to” a physician. Effective March 19, 2004, these procedures, when performed by personnel not qualified as described above, are not covered by this A/B MAC.

The following CPT codes for Vestibular Function Testing are covered by this policy:

92540 - Basic vestibular evaluation, includes spontaneous nystagmus test with eccentric gaze fixation nystagmus, with recording, positional nystagmus test, minimum of 4 positions, with recording, optokinetic nystagmus test, bidirectional foveal and peripheral stimulation, with recording and oscillating tracking test, with recording

This test should not be billed with CPT codes 92541, 92542, 92544 or 92545 as they are included in this test.

92541 – Spontaneous nystagmus test, including gaze and fixation nystagmus, with recording

This test may be billed along with CPT code 92542, and may be repeated in the presence of ongoing symptoms, to assess the impact of medical or surgical treatment. By "recording", the provider must store for future documentation by video or paper tracing, the eye movements observed. When treatment is successful in controlling the symptoms, no additional testing would be expected, unless symptoms return or worsen.


This test may be billed along with CPT code 92541 and may be repeated in the presence of ongoing symptoms, to assess the impact of medical or surgical treatment. By "recording", the provider must store for future documentation by video or paper tracing, the eye movements observed. Problematic patients with variable, paroxysmal, or "crescendo" symptoms may require several tests over a period of weeks to establish e.g. the canal containing obstructions in benign positional vertigo and to confirm response to therapy. However, when treatment is successful in controlling the symptoms, no additional testing would be expected, unless symptoms return or worsen.

92543 – Caloric vestibular test, each irrigation (binaural, bithermal stimulation constitutes four tests), with recording

This test usually consists of four tests (a test in each ear for warm and cool and if need be two additional tests with ice water, which would make it a QB of 4-6). However, if a problem is identified early in the test, which matches the clinical picture, all 4-6 tests might not be needed. This test identifies asymmetry of function between the two sides. However, the stimulation parameters are such that it mimics only slow head movements. This limits
the Caloric test to assessing one aspect of the vestibular system, and therefore, some cases of peripheral vestibular dysfunction may be missed by the test. Rotational testing (preferably Rotational Chair) may be required in some cases to totally rule out vestibular dysfunction.

92544 – Optokinetic nystagmus test, bidirectional, foveal or peripheral stimulation, with recording

This test documents and measures eye movements as the patient watches a series of targets moving simultaneously to the right and then to the left. The optokinetic mechanism is at work when the visual movement in one direction encompasses a large field. This is a test of central vestibular function, and sensitivity to visual motion stimuli. It is very useful in the assessment of patients with visual motion-elicited dizziness, and is a good central function control test for other tests.

92545 – Oscillating tracking test, with recording

This test evaluates the ability of the patient to keep a moving visual target registered on the fovea. The patient watches a light as it moves back and forth in a smooth pendular fashion. The computer computes the gain (target velocity divided by eye velocity) and compares the gain to age matched norms. The test is a good measure of central function, and evaluates the integrity of cortical visual motion pathways as well as the cerebellum and pontomedullary brainstem. It is a useful adjunct to other central tests, such as the suppression subtests of the caloric test, since these regions and mechanisms are partially responsible for central control of vestibular input.

92546 – Sinusoidal vertical axis rotational testing (commonly called Rotational Chair Testing)

This test requires the use of a chair capable of rotating around a vertical axis. There are several models of an appropriate chair for this test. This test is NOT performed by having the patient sit or stand on any kind of substitute platform or surface. The report produced by a legitimate test will print the findings discussed below. This test is not a head-shake test.

When the chair is rotated in the dark, it induces nystagmus. The individual’s eye movements are recorded during this rotation, and the velocity of the slow phase of the nystagmus is compared to the chair rotation at a variety of frequencies to derive a measure of the gain, or function of the vestibular system. The gain can be compared to established norms to determine if there is vestibular hypofunction or hyperfunction. When tested at higher velocities of rotation, it is possible to determine a measure of asymmetry (or unilateral weakness). The rotary chair test also allows one to determine the duration of the vestibular response through measures of the time constant. The interactions of the gain and time constant measures are useful in determining whether the vestibular loss is an acute or chronic condition. The rotary chair is the most useful method to document bilateral vestibular loss.

Because this CPT code shows, through data analysis, that it is frequently abused by not using proper equipment, this A/B MAC may ask for the manufacturer name and serial number with each claim.

92547 – (this is an add-on code) – Use of vertical electrodes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure; use with 92541-92546)

If no tests are conducted that utilize electrodes, then this code should not be billed.
92548 – Computerized dynamic posturography

Computerized dynamic posturography (CDP) is a test of the vestibulospinal system and assesses an individual’s ability to maintain standing balance under a variety of sensory conditions.

Because this CPT code shows, through data analysis, that it is frequently abused by not using proper equipment, this A/B MAC may ask for the manufacturer name and serial number with each claim.

Vestibular function tests and/or diagnostic audiometric tests are covered when testing is for the purpose of determining the appropriate medical or surgical treatment for disorders of balance.

Dizziness (ICD-9-CM Code 780.4) may support the medical necessity for hearing tests in the initial otolaryngologic evaluation of patients in whom general medical causes (anemia, cardiovascular, metabolic, etc.) have been excluded. However, since dizziness is a vague complaint, a diagnosis of dizziness alone does not qualify for coverage for vestibular function testing. There must be sufficient evaluation of the patient that vestibular testing is likely to contribute directly to the patient's therapy. In those instances, full audiometric evaluation can be a critical part of a full vestibular evaluation. We would expect this documentation to be in the chart if requested.

When the medical conditions requiring medical or surgical treatment are already known by the physician, or are not under consideration, and the diagnostic services are performed only to determine the need for or the appropriate type of hearing aid, the services are statutorily excluded from Medicare coverage whether performed by a physician or nonphysician.

HEARING TESTING

Standard hearing tests are not addressed in this policy. However, when a hearing test is ordered as a basis from which to decide to conduct vestibular testing (the provider may suspect a vestibular problem but wants to rule out a pathology other than normal age-related hearing loss), the hearing test will be covered.

Diagnostic audiologic testing (including hearing and balance assessment services) is covered when performed by a physician or a qualified audiologist. A qualified audiologist is an individual with a master’s or doctoral degree in audiology and who is licensed as an audiologist by the State. In addition to required licensure, audiologists are encouraged to obtain a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

In addition to the above qualification criteria, the following requirements must also be met:

1. The testing is ordered by a physician to obtain additional information to evaluate the need for or appropriate type of medical or surgical treatment for a hearing deficit or a medical problem; and

2. The name of the physician ordering the testing is reported on the audiologist's claim. (For example, testing performed by the audiologist to measure a hearing deficit or to identify the factors responsible for the deficit is covered when such services enable the physician to determine whether otologic surgery is indicated).

Basic Audiometry: Adequate testing requires an audiometer (device for presenting
sounds to the patient at precisely controlled intensity), a sound-proof environment, a
physician/audiologist, and a cooperative patient.

CPT code 92552 or 92553 will be covered by this A/B MAC if ordered and performed in
conjunction with vestibular function testing. No other hearing tests will be covered by this
A/B MAC when performed in conjunction with vestibular function testing, for the diagnosis
of balance problems.

92557 - This is a comprehensive audiometry evaluation which includes a battery of tests
comprised both of the elements of threshold evaluation (hearing threshold levels at various
frequencies presented by both air and bone conduction) and speech audiometry including
both speech reception and speech recognition testing. 92557 includes the elements of
CPT 92552, 92553, 92555 and 92556 therefore these codes cannot be billed on the same
date of service in addition to CPT code 92557.

Coding Information

Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically
used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy
does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that
coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply
equally to all claims.

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Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue
Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely
advisory; unless specified in the policy services reported under other Revenue Codes
are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue
Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should
be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

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CPT/HCPCS Codes

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<th>CPT Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>92540</td>
<td>BASIC VESTIBULAR EVALUATION, INCLUDES SPONTANEOUS NYSTAGMUS TEST WITH ECCENTRIC GAZE FIXATION NYSTAGMUS, WITH RECORDING, POSITIONAL NYSTAGMUS TEST, MINIMUM OF 4 POSITIONS, WITH RECORDING, OPTOKINETIC NYSTAGMUS TEST, BIDIRECTIONAL Foveal AND PERIPHERAL STIMULATION, WITH RECORDING, AND OSCILLATING TRACKING TEST, WITH RECORDING</td>
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<td>92541</td>
<td>SPONTANEOUS NYSTAGMUS TEST, INCLUDING GAZE AND FIXATION NYSTAGMUS, WITH RECORDING</td>
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<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>92542</td>
<td>POSITIONAL NYSTAGMUS TEST, MINIMUM OF 4 POSITIONS, WITH RECORDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>92543</td>
<td>CALORIC VESTIBULAR TEST, EACH IRRIGATION (BINAURAL, BITHERMAL STIMULATION CONSTITUTES 4 TESTS), WITH RECORDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>92544</td>
<td>OPTOKINETIC NYSTAGMUS TEST, BIDIRECTIONAL, FOVEAL OR PERIPHERAL STIMULATION, WITH RECORDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>92545</td>
<td>OSCILLATING TRACKING TEST, WITH RECORDING</td>
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<td>92546</td>
<td>SINUSOIDAL VERTICAL AXIS ROTATIONAL TESTING</td>
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<td>USE OF VERTICAL ELECTRODES (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)</td>
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<td>92548</td>
<td>COMPUTERIZED DYNAMIC POSTUROGRAPHY</td>
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<td>92552</td>
<td>PURE TONE AUDIOMETRY (THRESHOLD); AIR ONLY</td>
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<tr>
<td>92553</td>
<td>PURE TONE AUDIOMETRY (THRESHOLD); AIR AND BONE</td>
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<td>92557</td>
<td>COMPREHENSIVE AUDIOMETRY THRESHOLD EVALUATION AND SPEECH RECOGNITION (92553 AND 92556 COMBINED)</td>
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ICD-9 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

The ICD-9-CM codes listed below are to their highest level of specificity. It is the provider’s responsibility to avoid truncated codes by referring to the ICD-9-CM code book for the year in which the service was performed.

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<td>MÉNIÈRE’S DISEASE, UNSPECIFIED - INACTIVE MÉNIÈRE’S DISEASE</td>
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<td>386.10 - 386.12</td>
<td>PERIPHERAL VERTIGO UNSPECIFIED - VESTIBULAR NEURONITIS</td>
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<td>386.19</td>
<td>OTHER PERIPHERAL VERTIGO</td>
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<td>386.2</td>
<td>VERTIGO OF CENTRAL ORIGIN</td>
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<td>386.30 - 386.35</td>
<td>LARYRINTHITIS UNSPECIFIED - VIRAL LARYRINTHITIS</td>
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<td>386.40 - 386.43</td>
<td>LARYRINTHINE FISTULA UNSPECIFIED - SEMICIRCULAR CANAL FISTULA</td>
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<td>386.48</td>
<td>LARYRINTHINE FISTULA OF COMBINED SITES</td>
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<td>386.50 - 386.56</td>
<td>LARYRINTHINE DYSFUNCTION UNSPECIFIED - LOSS OF LARYRINTHINE REACTIVITY BILATER</td>
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<tr>
<td>386.58</td>
<td>OTHER FORMS AND COMBINATIONS OF LARYRINTHINE DYSFUNCTION</td>
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386.8 OTHER DISORDERS OF LABYRINTH

386.9 UNSPECIFIED VERTIGINOUS SYNDROMES AND LABYRINTHINE DISORDERS

389.10* SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS UNSPECIFIED

389.11* SENSORY HEARING LOSS, BILATERAL

389.12* NEURAL HEARING LOSS, BILATERAL

389.14* CENTRAL HEARING LOSS

780.4 DIZZINESS AND GIDDINESS

Tests for the ICD-9 diagnosis codes indicated with an asterisk (*) are covered only for an initial evaluation of a balance problem.

Diagnoses that Support Medical Necessity

ICD-9 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

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<td>V53.2</td>
<td>FITTING AND ADJUSTMENT OF HEARING AID</td>
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<td>V72.19</td>
<td>OTHER EXAMINATION OF EARS AND HEARING</td>
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ICD-9 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity Asterisk Explanation

Diagnoses that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

General Information

Documentations Requirements
Supportive documentation evidencing the condition and treatment is expected to be documented in the medical record and be available upon request.

Appropriate ICD-9-CM codes must be submitted with each claim. Claims submitted without such evidence will be denied as not medically necessary.

The patient’s record must document a balance problem which required further evaluation to determine the appropriate medical or surgical treatment.

When the billing provider is not the referring provider, this A/B MAC may request full contact information for the referring provider and request documentation from the referring provider. This documentation would include records of a full evaluation including clinical impression, written orders, and referral(s).

It is not enough to link the procedure code to a payable ICD-9-CM code. The diagnosis or clinical suspicion must be present for the procedure to be paid, and the patient's medical record must document that the coverage criteria in this policy have been met. Covered
services must meet general community standards of appropriate medical care. For example, extremely mild symptoms of very short duration may not justify procedures or testing, even though a listed ICD-9-CM symptom might superficially be met. Inclusion of certain "not otherwise specified" codes does not mean that any other associated disorder is covered.

Services are excluded when the diagnostic information required to determine the appropriate medical or surgical treatment is already known to the physician, or the diagnostic services are performed only to determine the need for or the appropriate type of a hearing aid. Diagnostic services performed by a qualified audiologist and meeting the above requirements are payable as "other diagnostic tests". Medicare coverage for these services is determined by the reason the tests were performed, rather than the diagnosis or the patient’s condition.

Appendices

Utilization Guidelines
It is very rarely necessary to conduct the entire battery of tests. In particular, as discussed in the Indications and Limitations section, previous workup, history, and exam will be carefully scrutinized to ensure that exhaustive test batteries are justified and appropriate to the patient’s history and symptoms. It is not necessary to conduct additional tests once the problem and its diagnosis have been determined or identified.

Most of the tests for vestibular function are conducted once per day. Repeat testing is only covered when medically necessary to assess specific medical or surgical treatments. Medically necessary means, for example, if symptoms are unchanged or a treatment completely resolves symptoms, elaborate repeat testing is not usually medically necessary to confirm this.

Repeat testing on a regular basis, in the absence of the resumption of symptoms, is not warranted. A few conditions may require testing on multiple days due to variably acute symptoms such as benign positional vertigo which varies with inner ear canal stones. However, in this case, isolated testing with 92542 is usually sufficient, and within several episodes, a firm diagnosis should be ruled in or out.

Tests with video recording are coded the same as the equivalent standard test, unless new CPT codes are issued. Manufacturer’s guidance to bill e.g. 92546, in multiple units does not override the CMS billing rules.

CPT code 92285, 92541, and 92542 are more likely to be medically necessary for follow up of disorders, likely secondary to canal block pathology. For this purpose, there may be testing at several visits, at intervals, for evaluation of interval change and symptoms.

SUMMARY:

CPT codes 92542, 92544, 92545, 92546, and 92548 are billable once per day, and repeated analysis or confirmation of findings within the session is considered part of one test. Note, for example, that CPT code 92542 specifically requires 4 or more positions tested in order to bill for one unit (Per CPT definition).

CPT code 92543 may often be billed up to a quantity of 4 units, of the test per session, when four different tests are performed, as described in the CPT text and in CPT Assistant, May 1996.

CPT code 92547 may be billed multiple times as required by other, medically necessary tests. Since the same electrodes are typically used for several serial tests, billing more than 6 per day would be atypical.
CPT codes 92531, 92532, 92533, and 92534 are considered bundled physical exam codes by CMS, have RVU’s of zero, and are not payable.

**Sources of Information and Basis for Decision**

Other Contractor’s Policies

Specialists in Neurology, Neurosurgery, Neuro-otolaryngology

www.umich.edu/oto/patient/clinicalsub/vestibular  
www.vestibular.org/overview  
www.ucsf.edu/audio/vestibular  
www.militaryaudiology.org/afaa/docs/13


**NOTE:** Some of the websites used to create this policy may no longer be available.

**Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

This policy does not reflect the sole opinion of the contractor or Contractor Medical Director. Although the final decision rests with the contractor, this policy was developed in cooperation with advisory groups, which include representatives from the affected provider community.

Contractor Advisory Committee meeting dates:

- California - 10/19/2011
- Hawaii - 10/14/2011
- Nevada - 10/20/11

**Start Date of Comment Period**  
10/14/2011

**End Date of Comment Period**  
12/05/2011

**Start Date of Notice Period**  
01/12/2012

**Revision History Number**  
Revision #10

**Revision History Explanation**

Revision #10 effective for dates of service on or after 06/07/2012

Revision made: Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity, subheading Hearing Tests, removed the previous definition of 92557 and replaced with a correct definition, "is a comprehensive audiometry evaluation which includes a battery of tests comprised both of the elements of threshold evaluation (hearing threshold levels at various frequencies presented by both air and bone conduction) and speech audiometry including both speech reception and speech recognition testing. 92557 includes the elements of CPT 92552, 92553, 92555 and 92556 therefore these codes cannot be billed on the same date of service in addition to CPT code 92557."

Revision #9 effective for dates of service on or after 03/29/2012

Revisions made: CMS National Coverage Policy added §(II)(4)(B) to Social Security Act
Revision #8 effective for dates of service on or after 02/27/2012
Revisions made: 'Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity', subsection Vestibular Testing added the sentence, "Since vestibular disorders are common causes of vertigo, imbalance and falling, referral to specialists of these disorders may lead to more rapid diagnosis and most appropriate use of vestibular testing" to the last paragraph in that section. Under subsection Treating Physician/Billing Provider added the phrase "often ordered or performed by the non-specialist or IDTF to the last sentence in that paragraph. Under CPT code 92543 added a statement regarding a rotation chair may be required to totally rule out vestibular dysfunction. Formatting changes were made under CPT code 92546. Under CPT code 92548 deleted the majority of the paragraph which described the test in great detail including listing the subsets of tests under this CPT code. Added the following sentence at the end of the paragraph describing dizziness ICD-9 code 780.4, "In those instances, full audiometric evaluation can be a critical part of a full vestibular evaluation." The changes made to the draft LCD were accepted.

Revision #7 DRAFT
Revisions made: Under CMS National Coverage Policy revised citation Pub. 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 3, Section 3.4.1.1, G to 3.4.1.3, B due to CR 6560, Program Integrity Manual Reorganization of Chapters 3 & 8. CMS Manual System, Pub. 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 3, §3.4.1.2 was changed to 3.6, determinations made during review, due to CR 6560. Under 'Indication and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity' the following statement was added "92577 - This is a functional test to determine validity of test results. A sound recognition test is given into both ears at the same time to see if there are differences. The test is often performed to detect malingering of unilateral loss. CPT code 92557 personal delivery service to be performed by an audiologist or physician." CPT code 92557 was added to the section titled 'CPT/HCPCS Codes.'

Revision #6 effective for dates of service on or after 05/20/2011
Under CMS National Coverage Policy changes Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, §1861(ll)(2) to read (ll)(3) as this section explains that audiology services means such hearing and balance assessment services furnished by a qualified audiologist. Publication 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 3, §3.4.1.1.E was revised to read 3.4.1.1.G. Under Sources of Information and Basis for Decision added city and state of publication and full name of publisher for book titled 'Practical Management of the Dizzy Patient.' Corrected the title of reference "Vestibular Function: Evaluation and Treatment," added the publication city and state, completed the name of the publishing company and added the page numbers of the reference.

Revision #5 effective for dates of service on or after 01/01/2010
Revisions made: Annual 2010 CPT/HCPCS update, under Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity section of LCD and under subheading "The following CPT codes for Vestibular Function Testing are covered by this policy" added definition of 92540 and added the statement "This test should not be billed with CPT codes 92541, 92542, 92544 or 92545 as they are included in this test." Under CPT/HCPCS Codes section of LCD added CPT code 92540 and CPT code 92543 had a descriptor change.

Revision #4 effective for dates of service on or after 06/08/2009
Revision made: Under "CMS National Coverage Policy" added Change Request 1573 as a reference citation for Publication 100-02, Chapter 15, §§80.3 and 80.3.1. Corrected citation of Publication 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 3, §3.4.1.1.4 to §3.4.1.1.E. Under "Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity"
added the sentence "We would expect this documentation to be in the chart if requested" to the section regarding dizziness ICD-9 code 780.4 may support the medical necessity for hearing tests. Under ICD-9 codes that support medical necessity added ICD-9 code 780.4.

Revision #3, 02/26/2009
This LCD is being revised to implement the streamlining of the Part B LCDs per the published article "Palmetto Team to Streamline Part B LCDs in Jurisdiction 1 (J1)." This article can be viewed at www.PalmettoGBA.com by searching for the above article name. This revision will become effective on 02/26/2009.

Revision #2, 10/1/2008
This LCD is being revised due to the annual FY 2009 ICD-9 CM code update. Under ICD-9 Codes That Support Medical Necessity the following codes were revised: 386.00, 386.01, 386.03, and 306.04. Under Indications and Limitation of Coverage removed duplicate Federal Regulations and CMS Manual citations. Under Documentation Requirements removed duplicate SSA and CMS Manual citations. Under Sources of Information and Basis for Decision section references were placed in the AMA citation format. This revision will become effective 10/01/2008.

Revision #1, 09/02/2008
This LCD is being revised to add Bill Type 999X because the automated system transcription process was incomplete.

08/10/2008 - This policy was updated by the ICD-9 2008-2009 Annual Update.

11/15/2009 - The description for CPT/HCPCS code 92543 was changed in group 1

11/21/2010 - For the following CPT/HCPCS codes either the short description and/or the long description was changed. Depending on which description is used in this LCD, there may not be any change in how the code displays in the document:
92552 descriptor was changed in Group 1
92553 descriptor was changed in Group 1

Reason for Change
Narrative Change

Related Documents
This LCD has no Related Documents.

LCD Attachments
There are no attachments for this LCD.

All Versions

Updated on 05/31/2012 with effective dates 06/07/2012 - N/A
Updated on 03/22/2012 with effective dates 03/29/2012 - 06/06/2012
Updated on 02/03/2012 with effective dates 02/27/2012 - 03/28/2012
Updated on 01/06/2012 with effective dates 02/27/2012 - N/A
Updated on 05/13/2011 with effective dates 05/20/2011 - 02/26/2012
Updated on 11/21/2010 with effective dates 01/01/2010 - 05/19/2011
Updated on 05/13/2010 with effective dates 01/01/2010 - N/A
Updated on 12/11/2009 with effective dates 01/01/2010 - N/A
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