Nerve Conduction Studies

Adjudication Guideline

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Abstract

For Members

Nerve conduction studies are performed to assess the integrity and diagnose diseases of the Peripheral nervous system. Pathological findings include conduction slowing, conduction block, no response, and/or low amplitude response.

For Medical Professionals

This adjudication rule aims to specify coverage details for nerve conduction studies, there are three different types; there is sensory nerve conduction study & motor nerve conduction study with F wave & motor nerve conduction study without F-Wave. Nerve conduction study results can assess the degree of demyelination and axon loss in the segments of the nerve studied.

Daman covers nerve conduction studies where medically necessary e.g.:

1. To establish the diagnosis and prognosis of traumatic nerve lesions
2. To establish the diagnosis and monitoring of neuromuscular junction disorders (e.g. myasthenia gravis).
3. To establish the diagnosis of muscle disorders (e.g. myopathy).
4. To diagnose generalized neuropathies
5. To diagnose symptom-based complaints.
6. Localization of compressive lesions (e.g., carpal tunnel syndrome).
Nerve Conduction Studies

Scope

This adjudication rule highlights the coverage of Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

Types of the Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS):

- **Motor NCS without F wave:**
  Performed by applying electrical signal to various points along the course of a motor nerve while recording the electrical response from an appropriate muscle. Response parameters include amplitude, latency, configuration, and motor conduction velocity.

- **Sensory NCS:**
  Performed by applying electrical signal stimulation near a sensory nerve and recording the response from a distant site along the nerve. Response parameters include amplitude, latency, configuration, and motor conduction velocity.

- **Motor with F Waves:**
  Is a late response involving the motor axons that can be elicited in most upper and lower extremity muscle? A stimulus is applied to a distal motor nerve that travels antidromically to the anterior horn cell, and a response fires back down the motor neuron and is recorded as a muscle response that occurs after the compound muscle action potential. Wave tends to have lower sensitivity for radiculopathy but can be useful in assessment of polyneuropathy.

Adjudication Policy

Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

1. Covered for all plans as per medical justification except visitor plan.

2. Nerve conduction study can be used only once when multiple sites on the same nerve are stimulated or recorded, e.g. ulnar nerve at wrist, forearm, below elbow, above elbow, axilla and supraclavicular regions will all be considered as a one-unit test of CPT of nerve conduction study. Different methods of measuring the conduction in the same nerve will not be reimbursed as separate services.

3. Motor and sensory may appropriately be billed together for the same patient on the same day when multiple nerves are tested, some with and some without F waves. However, nerve conduction study with F wave and motor nerve conduction study without F wave cannot be billed together for the same nerve in a given patient on a given day.

4. Patients can be reassessed depending upon the severity of the condition.

5. Eligible healthcare professionals are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neurology /Neuroradiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthopaedic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paediatric</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</td>
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</table>
Nerve Conduction Studies

Requirements for Coverage

- ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.
- Failure to submit, upon request or when requesting an informal review, a clinical history indication the need for testing will result in rejection of claim.

Non-Coverage

- Nerve conduction studies are not covered for visitor plan.
- Will not be covered by Daman (for any plan) if it is not supported by a medically justified indication/diagnosis.
- For screening evaluation.

Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply HAAD payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

Denial codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service /supply may be appropriate , but too frequent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity / diagnosis inconsistency with clinician speciality</td>
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Appendices

A. References

Nerve Conduction Studies


B. Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Change(s)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>22-08-2016</td>
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