Clinical Policy: Urodynamic Testing
Reference Number: CP.MP.98
Effective Date: 10/2015
Last Review Date: 10/2015

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Urodynamic testing is an important part of the comprehensive evaluation of voiding dysfunction. The clinician must exercise clinical judgment in the appropriate selection of urodynamic tests following an appropriate evaluation and symptom characterization. The purpose of this policy is to define medical necessity criteria for commonly used urodynamic studies.

Policy/Criteria
I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that urodynamic testing is medically necessary to assist in the diagnosis of urologic dysfunction with any of the following indications:
   A. Uncertain diagnosis and inability to develop an appropriate initial treatment plan based on the clinical diagnostic evaluation; or
   B. Failure to respond to an adequate therapeutic trial; or
   C. Consideration of urologic surgical intervention, particularly if previous surgery failed or if the patient is a high surgical risk; or
   D. Presence of other comorbid conditions such as:
      1. Incontinence associated with recurrent symptomatic urinary tract infection;
      2. Persistent symptoms of difficult bladder emptying;
      3. History of previous anti-incontinence surgery or radical pelvic surgery;
      4. Symptomatic pelvic prolapse;
      5. Abnormal post-void-residual urinalysis;
      6. Diabetes mellitus with secondary urinary incontinence; or
      7. Neurological conditions affecting voiding function (neurogenic bladder) such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, and spinal cord lesions or injury.

II. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation that urodynamic testing in the following cases is considered not medically necessary:
   A. More than one cystometrogram (CPT codes 51725 or 51726) or uroflowmetry study (CPT codes 51736 or 51741) per visit.
   B. The use of any urodynamic testing for screening in asymptomatic patients, except for evaluation of neurogenic bladder.

Background
Lower urinary tract symptoms, which include urinary incontinence, are a common and significant source of impaired quality of life and comorbidity in a large number of adults and children. Commonly, patients presenting with lower urinary tract symptoms have overlapping symptoms and conditions, making an isolated or homogeneous source of symptoms rare. Clinicians evaluating these disorders collectively utilize history, physical examination, questionnaires and testing data in the evaluation of symptoms.³ Cystometrogram, uroflowmetry,
urethral pressure profile, and voiding pressure studies, among others, are used to identify abnormal voiding patterns in symptomatic patients with disorders of urinary flow. Each of the urodynamic studies has benefits and limitations that must be understood for each specific clinical application.

In clinical practice, the role of invasive urodynamic testing is not clearly defined. Urologists generally accept that conservative or empiric, non-invasive treatments may be instituted without urodynamic testing. Conservative treatments for urinary incontinence include pelvic muscle exercises (Kegel exercise), behavioral therapies such as bladder training and/or biofeedback, and pharmacotherapies (e.g., anticholinergic agents, musculotropic relaxants, calcium channel blockers, tricyclic antidepressants, or a combination of anticholinergic, antispasmodic medications and tricyclic antidepressants). Specifically, urge incontinence is more effectively managed with peripherally acting receptor agonists or antagonists, while stress incontinence is better controlled by pelvic muscle exercises, behavioral therapies, or corrective surgery.4

Urodynamic studies are indicated only after an initial evaluation is performed that, at minimum, includes an appropriate history, physical exam, and urinalysis with microscopy. Infection, if present, should be treated and effectiveness of treatment observed before further diagnostic (urodynamic) testing or other therapeutic interventions are undertaken.

Many types of urodynamic testing require urethral catheterization and include cystometry, pressure flow studies (PFS), and urethral function testing. Such testing subjects patients to risks of urethral instrumentation including infection, urethral trauma, and pain. Thus, the clinician must weigh whether urodynamic tests offer additional diagnostic benefit beyond symptom assessment, physical examination, and other diagnostic testing. A cystometrogram is used to distinguish bladder outlet obstruction from other voiding dysfunctions.

- In a simple cystometrogram (CPT code 51725), the physician inserts a pressure catheter into the bladder and using a manometer, records the pressure and flow in the lower urinary tract.
- A complex cystometrogram (CPT code 51726) uses a transurethral catheter to fill the bladder with water or gas while simultaneously obtaining rectal pressure and a transducer measures intravesical pressure.
- CPT code 51727 reports a complex cystometrogram performed in conjunction with a measurement of urethral pressure studies.
- CPT code 51728 reports a complex cystometrogram performed in conjunction with a measurement of voiding pressure studies.
- CPT code 51729 reports a complex cystometrogram performed in conjunction with a measurement of voiding pressure studies and urethral pressure studies.
- Voiding pressure studies (CPT code 51797) measure the effort the patient makes while voiding. This measurement includes the pressure required and the subsequent urine flow.

Uroflowmetry and ultrasound post-void residual (PVR) studies may be appropriate noninvasive tests given the clinical scenario and the options for treatment.3
- In simple uroflowmetry (CPT code 51736), a stopwatch is used to record the volume of the flow of urine over time.
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- Complex uroflowmetry (CPT code 51741) uses electronic equipment to measure and record the volume of urine flow over time.
- Measurement of residual urine and/or bladder emptying capacity (CPT code 51798) is accomplished using ultrasound after voiding.

**Coding Implications**
The following is a list of procedures codes for which coverage may be provided when billed with a diagnosis code(s) that supports medical necessity criteria (see list of ICD-10-CM codes supporting medical necessity further below). They are current at time of review of this policy. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT®* Codes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51725</td>
<td>Simple cystometrogram (CMG)(eg, spinal manometer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51726</td>
<td>Complex cystometrogram (ie, calibrated electronic equipment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51727</td>
<td>Complex cystometrogram with urethral pressure profile studies (i.e., urethral closure pressure profile), any technique</td>
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<tr>
<td>51728</td>
<td>Complex cystometrogram; with voiding pressure studies (ie, bladder voiding pressure), any technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51729</td>
<td>Complex cystometrogram with voiding pressure studies (ie, bladder voiding pressure) and urethral pressure profile studies (ie, urethral closure pressure profile), any technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51736</td>
<td>Simple uroflowmetry (UFR)(eg, stop-watch flow rate, mechanical uroflowmeter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51741</td>
<td>Complex uroflowmetry (eg, calibrated electronic equipment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+51797</td>
<td>Voiding pressure studies, intra-abdominal (ie, rectal, gastric, intraperitoneal (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>51798</td>
<td>Measurement of post-voiding residual urine and/or bladder capacity by ultrasound, non-imaging</td>
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**ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Medical Necessity**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ICD-10-CM Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G20</td>
<td>Parkinson’s disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G35</td>
<td>Multiple sclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G37.3</td>
<td>Acute transverse myelitis in demyelinating disease of central nervous system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G83.4</td>
<td>Cauda equina syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N30.1, N30.2</td>
<td>Interstitial and other chronic cystitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N31.0-N31.9</td>
<td>Neuromuscular dysfunction of bladder, NEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N32.0-N32.89</td>
<td>Other disorders of bladder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N39.3-N39.8</td>
<td>Other disorders of urinary system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICD-10-CM Code | Description
---|---
Q05.0-Q07.9 | Spina bifida and other congenital malformations of spinal cord and nervous system
R33.8, R33.9 | Other and unspecified retention of urine
R39.81 | Functional urinary incontinence

In addition to the above ICD-10 codes, the following additional diagnosis codes support medical necessity for CPT code 51798.

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description |
---|---|
N13.8 | Other obstructive and reflux uropathy
N40.1, N40.3 | Enlarged or nodular prostate with lower urinary tract symptoms
R33.0-R33.9 | Retention of urine
R35.0 | Frequency of micturition

### Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

| Activity Description | Date | Approval Date |
---|---|---|
Policy developed | 09/15 | 10/15 |
Removed ICD-10 codes R34, R39.0 – R39.16 due to no support in literature | 02/16 | 02/16 |

### References


**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine.Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.
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**Note: For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

**Note: For Medicare members**, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs and LCDs should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at [http://www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) for additional information.

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