PARANEOPlastic NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER ANTIBody TESTING

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member’s specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms “experimental” and “investigational” are considered to be interchangeable.

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PARANEOPLASTIC NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER ANTIBODY TESTING (cont.)

Description:

Paraneoplastic neurological disorders are rare syndromes that are caused by, or associated with, an underlying neoplasm and may affect any part of the central or peripheral nervous system. Paraneoplastic neurological syndromes (PNS) typically affect middle-aged to older adults and are most common in individuals with lung, ovarian, lymphatic, or breast cancer. Immunologic factors have been investigated in the development of PNS because antineuronal autoantibodies and T-cell responses against nervous system antigens have been defined for many of these disorders. About one-third of the affected individuals do not have detectable antibodies and 5-10% have an atypical antibody that is not well characterized. Despite the presumed autoimmune etiology of PNS, the results of various forms of immunotherapy have been disappointing. Rapid detection and immediate treatment of the underlying tumor appears to offer the best chance of stabilizing the individual and preventing further neurological deterioration.

Criteria:

- Antibody testing for paraneoplastic neurological disorders is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

Antibody tests include, but are not limited to:

- Amphiphysin
- Anti-Tr
- CAR
- CASPR2
- CV2
- GAD65
- Ganglionic AChR
- Hu
- LGI1
- LEMS
- MaTa
- NMDA Receptor (NR1)
- Ri
- VGKC
- Yo
- Zic4
PARANEOPLASTIC NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER ANTIBODY TESTING (cont.)

Resources:

Literature reviewed through 02/16/16. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.


10. UpToDate, Dalmau J, Rosenfeld MR. Overview of paraneoplastic syndromes of the nervous system. Accessed 02/03/2015, 02/06/2014, last updated 08/15/2014.