

**MEDICAL POLICY**

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>PROCEDURES OF QUESTIONABLE CURRENT USEFULNESS</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>MP-4.009</b>

<b>Original Issue Date (Created):</b>	<b>7/1/2002</b>
<b>Most Recent Review Date (Revised):</b>	<b>5/11/2018</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>11/1/2018</b>

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**I. POLICY**

Capital BlueCross considers the following procedures and diagnostic lab tests to be of “Questionable Current Usefulness”, and are considered obsolete or discredited and **not medically necessary** *unless medical necessity can be established on an individual basis.* (See definitions.)

For the procedures listed as **investigational** there is insufficient evidence to support a conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this the procedure.

The following list is **not** an all-inclusive list. Capital Blue Cross will continually add any obsolete procedures or diagnostic tests:

<b>Medical Policy Service List</b>	<b>Obsolete (Outdated)/ Discredited/ Investigational</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Reference(s)</b>
Amylase, blood isoenzymes, electrophoretic 82664	Obsolete	No longer clinically useful or reliable. Lacks specificity. This testing was replaced by more technologically advanced testing.	<a href="http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/186389-overview#a1">Mathew, A. Hyperamylasemia. Updated 6/17/16 [Website]: http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/186389-overview#a1. Accessed January 5, 2018.</a>

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Anastomosis, arterial extracranial-intracranial (e.g. middle cerebral/cortical) arteries (when performed to treat or prevent cerebral ischemia in patients with arteriosclerotic disease in carotid and middle cerebral arteries) 61711	Discredited	The Intra/Extracranial Anastomosis performed on patients to treat or prevent cerebral ischemia in patients with arteriosclerotic disease in the carotid and middle cerebral arteries was found to have no benefit over medical therapy for preventing recurrent strokes.	<i>Powers WJ, Clarke WR, Grubb RL et al. Extracranial-Intracranial Bypass Surgery for Stroke Prevention in Hemodynamic Cerebral Ischemia: The Carotid Occlusion Surgery Study Randomized Trial. JAMA.2011;306(18):1983-1992. doi: 10.1001/jama.2011.1610. [Website]: <a href="http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1104607">http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1104607</a> Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Animal inoculation, small animal; with observation and dissection 87003	Obsolete	The inoculation of animals is primarily to isolate certain viruses when the use of a living organism is of importance. It is expensive to accrue and maintain, difficult, and there are a lot of issues pertaining to animal welfare.	<i>Sagar, Aryal MD. (May 2015). Techniques of Virus Cultivation. [Animal Inoculation]. [Website]: <a href="http://www.microbiologyinfo.com/techniques-of-virus-cultivation/">http://www.microbiologyinfo.com/techniques-of-virus-cultivation/</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Arsenic testing by means other than urine testing and for reason(s) other than suspected acute or chronic environmental exposure. 82175	Obsolete	Measurement of arsenic levels in urine is preferable to blood, since blood arsenic is cleared rapidly	<i>Goldman RH, Arsenic Exposure and Poisoning. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated June 16, 2016 [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>

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Bendien's Test for cancer and tuberculosis 86849	Obsolete	No longer in use, Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Bendien's Diagnostic Methods for Cancer and Principles of Treatment.</i> <i>JAMA.</i> 1932;98(5):423. <i>doi:10.1001/jama.1932.02730310063034</i>
Bolen's test for cancer /Clot retraction study (CRT) 85170	Discredited	This test is considered dated and nonspecific; it has largely been replaced with more sophisticated methods in most labs	<a href="http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2085066-overview#a4">Street T, Clot Retraction. Updated 3/19/14. [Website]: http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2085066-overview#a4.</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.
Brain imaging, limited procedure; static 78600, 78601	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Wong E, Wu J, Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis of Brain Tumors. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated July 19, 2017 [Website]: www.uptodate.com. Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Brain imaging, complete study static 78605, 78606	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Wong E, Wu J, Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis of Brain Tumors. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated July 19, 2017, [Website]: www.uptodate.com. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Calcium, feces, 24-hour quantitative 84999	Obsolete	Replaced by quantitative stool for fat	<a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19493303">Christensen R, Lorenzen JK, Svith CR, et al. Effect of calcium from dairy and dietary supplements on faecal fat excretion: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. [Website]: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19493303</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.

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Calcium saturation clotting time 85999	Obsolete	No longer used, Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<a href="#">Glazki A, Effect of Blood Protease and Trypsin Inhibitor on the Clotting Mechanism. J Clin Invest. 1947 May; 26(3): 364–369. doi: 10.1172/JCI101818 . [Website]: <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC439159/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC439159/</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</a>
Capillary fragility test (Rumpel-Leede) 85999	Obsolete	No longer used, Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<a href="#">Perry D, Linden I, Studies of Methods of Determining Capillary Fragility. The Journal of Investigative Dermatology (1952) 19, 35–47; doi:10.1038/jid.1952.63</a>
Cardionetegram (or omnicardiogram) S9025	Discredited	The omnicardiogram cannot be considered a useful technique for predicting the presence or severity of coronary artery disease or for the identification of abnormal left ventricular function in patients with known coronary artery disease	<a href="#">Redy K, Smithline F, Zenan BT et al. Failure of the omnicardiogram to predict coronary artery disease in patients with normal resting electrocardiograms. Unbound Medline. Journal of electrocardiology 8:1 1975 Jan pg 13-6.</a>
Cellular Therapy M0075	Discredited	Cellular therapy is currently without scientific or statistical evidence to document its therapeutic efficacy and, in fact, is considered a potentially dangerous practice	<i>Unproven methods of cancer management: Issels combination therapy. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 1972. 22: 188–191. doi: 10.3322/canjclin.22.3.188 [Website]: <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/canjclin.22.3.188/abstract">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/canjclin.22.3.188/abstract</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>

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Cephalin flocculation P2028	Obsolete	An obsolete liver-function test based on crude estimates of the albumin:globulin ratio, supplanted by electrophoresis and other more specific methods.	<i>Segen's Medical Dictionary.</i> © 2012 Farlex, Inc. All rights reserved. <i>Cephalin-cholesterol flocculation test [Website]:</i> <a href="http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/cephalin-cholesterol+flocculation+test">http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/cephalin-cholesterol+flocculation+test</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.
Chemonucleolysis 62292	Discredited	In January 2003 the FDA halted the sale and distribution of chymopapain in the United States. It was found to cause serious side effects at a higher-than-expected rate	<i>Halderman S, Reinventing Chemonucleolysis: From Papayas to Polymers. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. July 2012. [Website]:</i> <a href="http://www.aaos.org/news/aaosnow/jul12/research2.asp">http://www.aaos.org/news/aaosnow/jul12/research2.asp</a> . Accessed January 5, 2018.
Chromium, other than urine or blood test for any indication other than environmental exposure. Testing to be completed within 1-2 days of exposure. 82495	Obsolete	Chromium can be measured in blood and urine. Hair or nail analysis has no clinical value. Urinary chromium excretion is a useful index of exposure in occupational settings. However, it reflects exposure over the previous 1 or 2 days only. Chromium rapidly clears from the blood, and measurements relate only to recent exposure	<i>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Environmental Health and Medicine Education. Chromium Toxicity, Clinical Assessment-Laboratory Tests. [Website]:</i> <a href="http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=10&amp;po=12">http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=10&amp;po=12</a> . Accessed January 5, 2018.
Chymotrypsin, duodenal contents 84999	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Assessing Medical Technologies, Institute of Health. National Academy Press. Washington DC. 1985.</i>

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Circulation time 85999	Discredited	Results unpredictable. Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Mahl M, Lange K. Reliability of Subjective Circulation Time Determinations A Comparison Between Objective and Subjective Methods. Circulation 1958; 17:922-926 doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.17.5.922 [Website]: <a href="http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/circulationaha/17/5/922.full.pdf">http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/circulationaha/17/5/922.full.pdf</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Coccygectomy, primary 27080	Discredited	Results of effectiveness from randomized trials are not available and there is a substantial complication rate with this procedure.	<i>Fletcher R. Coccydynia (coccygodynia) In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated January 4, 2018 [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Colloidal gold spinal test. Lange's colloidal gold test. 82664	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Mellanby J. The Precipitation of Colloidal Gold by Cerebrospinal Fluid. The diagnosis of neuro-Syphilis. April 9, 1923. [Website]: <a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1584664/pdf/canmedaj00331-0031.pdf">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1584664/pdf/canmedaj00331-0031.pdf</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Congo Red Blood P2029	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<i>Ouchi E, Normura N, Watabe S et al. Clinical significance of Congo red test. Tohoku J Exp Med. 1976; 118 Suppl: 191-8. PMID:964024</i>
Contrast or chain urethroscystography (including injection procedure)	Obsolete	Replaced with ultrasound scanning.	<i>Radiographic Urethroscystography Part 1. Urology Notes 12 [Website]: <a href="http://uronotes2012.blogspot.com/2012/04/radiographic-urethroscystography-part-1.html">http://uronotes2012.blogspot.com/2012/04/radiographic-urethroscystography-part-1.html</a></i>

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74455, 51605			<i>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>  <i><a href="#">Gordon D, Pearce M, et al. Comparison of Ultrasound and Lateral Chain Urethrocystography in the Determination of Bladder Neck Descent. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Volume 160, Issue 1, January 1989. Pages 182-185.</a></i>
Cystotomy or cystotomy with cryosurgery, fulguration and/ or insertion of radioactive material 51020	Obsolete	Cystourethroscopy has replaced cystotomy or cystostomy for cryosurgery or fulguration of bladder lesions. Although cystourethroscopy can be used to deliver radioactive substances to the bladder (intravesical brachytherapy), current evidence-based guidelines do not list brachytherapy as an established treatment for bladder cancer	<i><a href="#">National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NG2. Bladder Cancer: Diagnosis and Management. London, UK: NICE; February 2015. [Website]: <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng2">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng2</a></a></i> <i>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Cystourethroscopy with insertion of radioactive substance 52250	Obsolete	Although cystourethroscopy can be used to deliver radioactive substances to the bladder (intravesical brachytherapy), current evidence-based guidelines do not list brachytherapy as an established treatment for bladder cancer	<i><a href="#">National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NG2. Bladder Cancer: Diagnosis and Management. London, UK: NICE; February 2015. [Website]: <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng2/evidence">http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng2/evidence</a>.</a></i> <i>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>



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Cystourethroscopy with ejaculatory duct catheterization, with or without irrigation instillation, or duct radiography, exclusive of radiologic service. 52010	Obsolete	Less invasive techniques are available.	<a href="#">Wang C, Swerdloff R, Treatment of Male Infertility. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated October 31, 2017. [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018</a>
Displacement therapy (Proetz type) 30210	Obsolete	Not listed as a treatment option in professional ENT guidelines.	<i>Otolaryngology Head and Neck. Clinical practice guideline: (update) April 2015. Adult sinusitis. [Website]: <a href="http://oto.sagepub.com/content/152/2_suppl/S1.full">http://oto.sagepub.com/content/152/2_suppl/S1.full</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Eustachian tube inflation; transnasal; with catheterization 69799	Investigational	Evidence of benefit has not been established	<i>Poe D, Bassam H, Eustachian tube dysfunction In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated September 21, 2016. [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Excision, coccygeal pressure ulcer, with coccygectomy; with primary suture 15920	Discredited	Results of effectiveness from randomized trials are not available and there is a substantial complication rate with this procedure.	<i>Fletcher R. Coccydynia (coccygodynia) In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated January 4, 2018. [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>



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Gastric analysis, pepsin 84999	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	<a href="#"><i>Hirschowitz BI, A Critical Analysis, with Appropriate Controls, of Gastric Acid and Pepsin Secretion in Clinical Esophagitis. Gastroenterology. 1991 Nov;101(5):1149-58.PMID: 1936784 [Website]:  http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1936784 . Accessed January 5, 2018</i></a>
Gastric analysis, tubeless 84999	Discredited	No longer in use. Replaced by more accurate testing methods including gastric pH monitoring	<a href="#"><i>Rosenfeld L, Gastric Tubes, Meals, Acid and Analysis: Rise and Decline. Clinical Chemistry May 1997 vol. 43 no. 5 837-842. [Website]:  http://www.clinchem.org/content/43/5/837.full . Accessed January 5, 2018.</i></a>
Guanase, blood 84999	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determination (NCD) 300.1 Obsolete or Unreliable Diagnostic Tests. Effective 06/19/2006 CMS [Website]: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=204&amp;ncdver=2&amp;DocID=300.1&amp;list_type=ncd&amp;bc=gAAAABAAAA&amp;">https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=204&amp;ncdver=2&amp;DocID=300.1&amp;list_type=ncd&amp;bc=gAAAABAAAA&amp;</a> . Accessed January 5, 2018.
Heart catheterization by left ventricular puncture 93462	Obsolete	This technique is rarely used and carries significant excess risk	<a href="#"><i>Morton K, Cardiac Catheterization Techniques: Normal Hemodynamics. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated November 20, 2017 [Website]: www.uptodate.com. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i></a>

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Hormones, adrenocorticotrop in quantitative bioassay 84999	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques.	<i>Nieman L, Measurement of ACTH, CRH, and other hypothalamic and pituitary peptides</i> <i>In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated July 5, 2017. [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Incisional biopsy of the prostate 55705	Obsolete	Transrectal ultrasound-guided core needle biopsy has replaced incisional biopsy of the prostate for diagnosis of prostate cancer.	<i>National Comprehensive Care Network (NCCN). NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. Prostate Cancer [Website]: <a href="http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf">http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Interruption, partial or complete of femoral vein, by ligature, intravascular device (when performed to treat post-phlebitis syndrome) 37650	Discredited	Older methods of venous intervention were reported to have inferior results. Newer procedures are not well studied in trials that specifically evaluate outcomes in patients with post-thrombotic syndrome.	<i>Alguire P, Mathes BI Post-thrombotic (postphelbitic) Syndrome. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated November 3, 2016 [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>

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Laetrile and related substances (e.g., amygdalin, Sarcarcinase, vitamin B-17, and nitriloside) J3570	Discredited	The FDA has determined that neither Laetrile nor any other drug called by the various terms mentioned above, nor any other product which might be characterized as a "nitriloside" is generally recognized (by experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs) to be safe and effective for any therapeutic use.	<i>Milazzo S, Horneber M. Laetrile Treatment for Cancer. Cochrane Library. 10/31/14. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005476.pub4. [Website]: <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005476.pub4/abstract">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005476.pub4/abstract</a> Accessed January 5, 2017.</i>
Masters 2 Step S3904	Discredited	Testing results inferior to other more technologically advanced methods	<i><a href="#">Horlick L. A Clinical Re-Evaluation of Master's Two Step Test. Can Med Assoc J. 1959 Jan 1; 80(1): 9-13.</a></i>
Mechanical fragility test, red blood cells 85547	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques.	<i><a href="#">Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determination (NCD) 300.1 Obsolete or Unreliable Diagnostic Tests. Effective 06/19/2006 CMS [Website] :</a> <a href="https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=204&amp;ncdver=2&amp;DocID=300.1&amp;list_type=ncd&amp;bc=gAAAAAgAAAAAA%3d%3d&amp;">https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=204&amp;ncdver=2&amp;DocID=300.1&amp;list_type=ncd&amp;bc=gAAAAAgAAAAAA%3d%3d&amp;</a> Accessed January 5, 2017</i>

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Mucoprotein, blood (seromuroid) P2038	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<a href="#">Lubege J, Davies T, A comparison of serum mucoprotein with serum alpha 1 acid glycoprotein, haptoglobin, and alpha 1 antitrypsin assays in monitoring inflammatory bowel disease. Clin Chim Acta. 1990 Apr 13;188(1):59-69 PMID:2347083</a>
Near-infrared spectroscopy for wounds 76499	Investigational	Further research is needed to support the use of this procedure in the management of lower extremity wounds.	Sowa MG, Kuo W, Ko AT, Armstrong DG; Review of near-infrared methods for wound assessment. J. Biomed. Opt. 0001;21(9):091304. doi:10.1117/1.JBO.21.9.091304. [Website]: <a href="http://biomedicaloptics.spiedigitallibrary.org/article.aspx?articleid=2516191#Conclusion">http://biomedicaloptics.spiedigitallibrary.org/article.aspx?articleid=2516191#Conclusion</a> . Accessed January 5, 2018.
Near-infrared guidance 76499	Investigational	There is currently insufficient evidence on the effectiveness of near-infrared vascular imaging for guiding vascular access. Well-designed studies are needed to validate these preliminary findings	Clinical Practice Guideline, Difficult Intravenous Access. Emergency Nurses Association [Website]: <a href="https://www.ena.org/docs/default-source/resource-library/practice-resources/cpg/difficultivaccesscp g.pdf?sfvrsn=9944da58_8">https://www.ena.org/docs/default-source/resource-library/practice-resources/cpg/difficultivaccesscp g.pdf?sfvrsn=9944da58_8</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.

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Phonocardiogram with ECG lead, with indirect carotid artery and/or jugular vein tracing, and/or apex cardiogram; with interpretation and report. 93799	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<a href="#">Rangayyan R, Phonocardiogram signal analysis: a review. Crit Rev Biomed Eng. 1987; 15(3):211-36. PMID:3329595</a>
Phonocardiogram : tracing only, without interpretation and report (e.g., when equipment is supplied by the hospital, clinic), 93799	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<i>Rangayyan R, Phonocardiogram signal analysis: a review. Crit Rev Biomed Eng. 1987; 15(3):211-36. PMID:3329595</i>
Phonocardiogram ; interpretation and report 93799	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<i>Rangayyan R, Phonocardiogram signal analysis: a review. Crit Rev Biomed Eng. 1987; 15(3):211-36. PMID:3329595</i>
Phonocardiogram ; without interpretation and report only 93799	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<i>Rangayyan R, Phonocardiogram signal analysis: a review. Crit Rev Biomed Eng. 1987; 15(3):211-36. PMID:3329595</i>
Prostatotomy for external drainage of prostate abscess 55720, 55725	Obsolete	Transurethral evacuation or transperineal aspiration replaced prostatotomy as the standard method of drainage of a prostatic abscess.	<i>Meyrier A, Thomas F Acute bacterial prostatitis. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated December 20, 2017 [Website]: www.uptodate.com. Accessed January 5, 2018</i>

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Rehfuß test for gastric acidity 43754	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<a href="#"><i>Rosenfield L Gastric tubes, meals, acid, and analysis: rise and decline Clinical Chemistry 43:5 837–842 (1997) [Website]:  http://www.clinchem.org/content/43/5/837.full.pdf+html</i></a> <i>Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Serum glutamate dehydrogenase 82965	Discredited	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<a href="#"><i>Jenkins W, Rosalki S, Foo S, et al. Serum glutamate dehydrogenase is not a reliable marker of liver cell necrosis in alcoholics. J Clin Pathol1982;35:207-210 doi:10.1136/jcp.35.2.207</i></a>
Skin test, brucellosis 86486	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced testing targeting brucellosis.	<a href="#"><i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Brucellosis. Last reviewed and updated 12/4/2014.[Website]:  http://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/index.html. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i></a>  <a href="#"><i>ARUP Consult, Bartonella Species. [Website]:  https://arupconsult.com/content/bartonella-species</i></a> <i>Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Skin test, cat scratch fever 86486	Outdated	The cat scratch skin test, one of the original four criteria for diagnosis of CSD, is no longer used since other more specific and sensitive diagnostic tools are preferred	<a href="#"><i>Spach D, Sheldon K Microbiology, epidemiology, clinical manifestations, and diagnosis of cat scratch disease. In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated February 28, 2017. [Website]: www.uptodate.com. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i></a>

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<b>Medical Policy Service List</b>	<b>Obsolete (Outdated)/ Discredited/ Investigational</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Reference(s)</b>
Skin test, psittacosis 86486	Obsolete	Not the preferred test for this condition	<a href="#"><i>Richards M. Psittacosis</i></a> <i>In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated Jun 27, 2017.. [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Skin test, trichinosis 86486	Obsolete	Not the preferred test for this condition (86486)	<a href="#"><i>Weller P, Leder K. Trichinellosis</i></a> <i>In: UpToDate Online Journal [serial online]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate; updated Nov 03, 2017. [Website]: <a href="http://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Starch, feces, screening 89240	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<i>Davidson M, Bauer C. The Value of Microscopic Examination of the Stool for Extracellular Starch in the Diagnosis of Starch Intolerance. Pediatrics Vol. 21 No. 4 April 1, 1958 pp. 565 -572</i>
Sympathectomy, lumbar (when performed to treat hypertension) 64818	Obsolete	Significant operative morbidity and mortality and unwanted side effects that, together with the advent of more effective antihypertensive medications, led to abandonment of this procedure in the early 1970s.	<a href="#"><i>Bertog S, Sobotka P, Horst S. Renal Denervation for Hypertension. J Am Coll Cardiol Intv. 2012;5(3):249-258. March 2012.</i></a> <a href="#"><i>doi:10.1016/j.jcin.2011.12.011</i></a> <i>[Website]: <a href="http://interventions.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=1207259">http://interventions.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=1207259</a> January 5, 2018.</i>



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<b>Medical Policy Service List</b>	<b>Obsolete (Outdated)/ Discredited/ Investigational</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Reference(s)</b>
Sympathectomy, thoracolumbar (when performed to treat hypertension) 64809	Obsolete	Significant operative morbidity and mortality and unwanted side effects that, together with the advent of more effective antihypertensive medications, led to abandonment of this procedure in the early 1970s.	<i>Bertog S, Sobotka P, Horst S. Renal Denervation for Hypertension. J Am Coll Cardiol Interv. 2012;5(3):249-258. March 2012. doi:10.1016/j.jcin.2011.12.011 [Website]: <a href="http://interventions.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=1207259">http://interventions.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=1207259</a> Accessed January 5, 2018</i>
Thymol turbidity, blood P2033	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques	<i>Thymol turbidity. In Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.britannica.com">http://www.britannica.com</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Transection or avulsion of phrenic nerve 64746	Discredited	This approach to treatment for hiccups may be associated with considerable morbidity and is not universally successful. A Cochrane review concluded that the available evidence was insufficient to guide treatment of persistent or intractable hiccups by either pharmacologic or nonpharmacologic means.	<i>Wilkes G, Hiccups Treatment and Management [Website]: <a href="http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/775746-treatment#d1">http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/775746-treatment#d1</a>. Updated 12/9/15 Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>

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<b>Medical Policy Service List</b>	<b>Obsolete (Outdated)/ Discredited/ Investigational</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Reference(s)</b>
Uterine suspension, with or without shortening of round ligaments, with or without shortening of sacrouterine ligaments 58400	Discredited	Round ligament suspension is not effective in treating uterine or vaginal prolapse.	<i>National Guideline Clearinghouse. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Pelvic organ prolapse. Washington (DC): American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); 2007 Sep. 13. Reaffirmed 2011. (ACOG practice bulletin; no. 85). [Website]: <a href="http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=12624">http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=12624</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Uterine suspension, with or without shortening of round ligaments, with or without shortening of sacrouterine ligaments; with presacral sympathectomy (presacral neurectomy) 58410	Discredited	The evidence on laparoscopic uterine nerve ablation (LUNA) for chronic pelvic pain suggests that it is not efficacious and therefore should not be used.	<i>National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Laparoscopic uterine nerve ablation (LUNA) for chronic pelvic pain Issued: October 2007 London, UK: NICE; [Website]: <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/igp234/chapter/1-guidance">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/igp234/chapter/1-guidance</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Vectorcardiogram (VCG), with or without ECG; with interpretation and report. 93799	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques.	<i>Yang H, Bukkapatnam S, Komanduri R. Spatiotemporal representation of cardiac vectorcardiogram (VCG) signals. BioMedical Engineering OnLine 2012, 11:16 doi: 10.1186/1475-925X-11-16 [Website]: <a href="http://biomedical-engineering-online.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1475-925X-11-16">http://biomedical-engineering-online.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1475-925X-11-16</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>

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<b>Medical Policy Service List</b>	<b>Obsolete (Outdated)/ Discredited/ Investigational</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Reference(s)</b>
Vectorcardiogram; interpretation and report only. 93799	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques.	<i>Yang H, Bukkapatnam S, Komanduri R. Spatiotemporal representation of cardiac vectorcardiogram (VCG) signals. BioMedical Engineering OnLine 2012, 11:16 doi: 10.1186/1475-925X-11-16 [Website]: <a href="http://www.biomedical-engineering-online.com/content/11/1/16">http://www.biomedical-engineering-online.com/content/11/1/16</a>. Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>
Zinc sulphate turbidity, blood 89240	Obsolete	Replaced by more technologically advanced techniques.	<i>Zinc sulfate turbidity test. Segen's Medical Dictionary. © 2012 Farlex, Inc. All rights reserved. [Website]: <a href="http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/zinc+sulfate+turbidity+test">http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/zinc+sulfate+turbidity+test</a> Accessed January 5, 2018.</i>

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**II. PRODUCT VARIATIONS**

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This policy is applicable to all programs and products administered by Capital BlueCross unless otherwise indicated below.

**FEP PPO** - The FEP program dictates that all drugs, devices or biological products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered investigational. Therefore, FDA-approved drugs, devices or biological products may be assessed on the basis of medical necessity.

**III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

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A procedure that is considered obsolete, outdated, or discredited is considered a Procedure of Questionable Current Usefulness (POQCU).

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**IV. RATIONALE**

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*See specific procedure or test in table above.*

**V. DEFINITIONS**

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**DISCREDITED** – found to be ineffective or not medically necessary.

**MEDICAL NECESSITY** - Capital defines “medical necessity or medically necessary” to mean the following:

- Services or supplies that a physician exercising prudent clinical judgment would provide to a Plan Member for the diagnosis and/or the direct care and treatment of the Plan Member’s medical condition, disease, illness, or injury that are necessary; and
- In accordance with accepted standards of good medical practice; and
- Clinically appropriate for the Plan Member’s condition, disease, illness or injury; and
- Not primarily for the convenience of the Plan Member and/or Plan Member’s family, physician, or other health care provider; and
- Not more costly than alternative services or supplies at least as likely to produce equivalent results for the Plan Member’s condition, disease, illness or injury.

For these purposes, “generally accepted standards of good medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, national Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other clinically relevant factors.

**OBSOLETE** - replaced by newer technology

**VI. BENEFIT VARIATIONS**

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The existence of this medical policy does not mean that this service is a covered benefit under the member's contract. Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract language. Medical policies do not constitute a description of benefits. A member’s individual or group customer benefits govern which services are covered, which are excluded, and which are subject to benefit limits and which require preauthorization. Members and providers should consult the member’s benefit information or contact Capital BlueCross for benefit information.

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**VII. DISCLAIMER**

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*Capital BlueCross's medical policies are developed to assist in administering a member's benefits, do not constitute medical advice and are subject to change. Treating providers are solely responsible for medical advice and treatment of members. Members should discuss any medical policy related to their coverage or condition with their provider and consult their benefit information to determine if the service is covered. If there is a discrepancy between this medical policy and a member's benefit information, the benefit information will govern. Capital BlueCross considers the information contained in this medical policy to be proprietary and it may only be disseminated as permitted by law.*

**VIII. CODING INFORMATION**

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**Note:** This list of codes may not be all-inclusive, and codes are subject to change at any time. The identification of a code in this section does not denote coverage as coverage is determined by the terms of member benefit information. In addition, not all covered services are eligible for separate reimbursement.

\*For related *Procedure Codes*, see coding information within the table of procedures located in the [POLICY](#) section above.

**IX. REFERENCES**

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*American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2011 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company [Website]: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>. Accessed January 5, 2018.*

**X. POLICY HISTORY**

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<b>MP 4.009</b>	<b>CAC 6/29/04</b>
	<b>CAC 7/26/05</b>
	<b>CAC 8/30/05</b>
	<b>CAC 7/25/06</b>
	<b>CAC 10/31/06</b>
	<b>CAC 9/25/07</b>
	<b>CAC 5/27/08</b>
	<b>CAC 11/25/08</b>
	<b>CAC 1/26/10</b> Added Micronutrient testing to list of procedures and laboratory tests of questionable current usefulness.

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11/1/14	CAC 4/26/11 Minor revision. Policy updated with additional obsolete procedures and tests.
	CAC 7/30/13. Consensus review. References updated but no changes to the policy statements.
	12/23/2013- New 2014 code added to policy
	CAC 3/25/14 Consensus. No change to policy statements. References updated. Deleted codes removed from policy
	11/1/14 Admin: Added Laetrile and related substances (e.g., amygdalin, Sarcarcinase, vitamin B-17, and nitriloside) to the list of procedures of questionable current usefulness. Reference and code update.
	CAC 3/24/15 Consensus review. No changes to the policy statements. References updated. Coding reviewed.
	<p><b>CAC 9/29/15 Major review.</b></p> <p>Removed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal inoculation -code 87001 is deleted. Code 87003 – animal inoculation with observation and dissection remains</li> <li>• Cerebrospinal fluid flow 78647. See MP 5.031 Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography. (SPECT)</li> <li>• Craniectomy for implantation of neurostimulator procedures – see MP 1.042 Deep Brain Stimulation. Codes 61863, 61864, 61867, 61868</li> <li>• Craniotomy for lobotomy including cigulotomy</li> <li>• Dynamic posturography – See MP 2.011 Dynamic Posturography</li> <li>• Fascia lata graft for back pain.</li> <li>• Penile revascularization 37788 – see MP 2.016 Erectile Dysfunction</li> <li>• Micronutrient Testing – See MP 2.333 Intracellular Micronutrient Analysis Intracellular</li> <li>• Radiation procedures – NIA managing all radiation therapy effective 1/1/16.</li> <li>• Skin tests except for cat scratch, brucellosis, psittacosis, trichinosis.</li> </ul> <p>Added the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemonucleolysis. 62292</li> <li>• Bioelectrical impedance analysis whole body composition assessment. 0358T</li> </ul> <p>Other changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arsenic (changed to “arsenic testing other than urine testing for suspected chronic arsenic poisoning”)</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chromium (changed to Chromium testing other than blood test for environmental exposure within 1-2 days) Rationale added. References updated. Coding reviewed.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>8/1/2016 Administrative Update:</b> P2031 removed from policy reference and information moved to MP 2.327 Drug Testing in Pain Management and Substance Abuse Treatment Setting.</p>
	<p><b>Admin update 1/1/17:</b> Product variation section updated.</p>
	<p><b>CAC 9/27/16</b> Minor review. Added 0300 &amp; 0300T related to ESWT for wound healing as investigational. Added 0286T related to near-infrared studies of lower extremity wounds and 0287T related to near-infrared guidance for vascular access as investigational. References updated. Rationales reviewed. Coding reviewed.</p>
	<p><b>Administrative Update 2/6/17:</b> Removed end dated codes 0286T &amp; 0287T; replaced with 76499.</p>
	<p><b>Administrative Update 1/1/18:</b> Removed 0299T, 0300T, &amp; 0358T; addressed in Medical Policy 4.002 (Experimental and Investigational). Medicare coverage information removed from procedure table in policy section.</p>
	<p><b>1/5/18</b> Consensus review. No change to policy statements. References updated. Rationale reviewed.</p>
	<p><b>5/11/18</b> Minor review. Removed codes 44680 and 38530 and related procedure information from policy. Coding Reviewed.</p>

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