

**Policy: MP163**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Thermography**

### Applicable Lines of Business

Commercial	X	CHIP	X
Medicare	X	ACA	X
Medicaid	X		

**I. Policy:** Thermography

**II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Thermography

**III. Responsibility:**

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management

**IV. Required Definitions**

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

**V. Additional Definitions**

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

- a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
- b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
- c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
- d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
- e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

**Medicaid Business Segment**

Medically Necessary — A service, item, procedure, or level of care that is necessary for the proper treatment or management of an illness, injury, or disability is one that:

- Will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or developmental effects of an

illness, condition, injury or disability.

- Will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for Members of the same age

**DESCRIPTION:** Thermography, also known as temperature-gradient studies, is a non-invasive imaging technique intended to measure temperature distributions of various organs and tissues. The infrared radiation from the tissue reveals temperature variations by producing brightly colored patterns on a liquid crystal display. Each color represents a specific temperature level. Interpretations of the color patterns according to their distribution are thought to contribute to the diagnosis of a vast number of diseases.

**EXCLUSIONS:** The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for Thermography as a method to diagnose any disease or condition indication because it is considered **experimental, investigational or unproven**. The Geisinger Technology Assessment Committee evaluated this technology and concluded that there is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of this test on health outcomes when compared to established tests or technologies.

The plan does not provide coverage for Thermography either as a standalone or adjunct screening tool, or as a substitute for mammography. The FDA issued a statement advising that there has been no valid scientific data to show that thermographic devices, when used on their own, are an effective screening tool for any medical condition including the early detection of breast cancer or other breast disease. The Society of Breast Imaging does not currently support the use of thermography/infrared imaging of the breast as either a screening tool in the detection of breast cancer or as an adjunctive diagnostic tool.

Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in **MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment**.

### **Medicaid Business Segment:**

Any requests for services, that do not meet criteria set in the PARP, may be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:** Thermography

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements*

93740 Temperature gradient studies

76498 Unlisted magnetic resonance procedure

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) © American Medical Association: Chicago, IL

### **LINE OF BUSINESS:**

**Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD's and NCD's will supersede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.**

### **REFERENCES:**

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This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 09/30/05

**Revised:** 8/11 (exclusion and references added); 7/16

**Reviewed:** 11/06; 11/07, 11/08, 11/09, 9/10, 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/15, 7/17, 6/18, 7/19, 7/20, 7/21, 7/22, 7/23

Geisinger Health Plan may refer collectively to health care coverage sponsors Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, unless otherwise noted. Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

Coverage for experimental or investigational treatments, services and procedures is specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Unproven services outside of an approved clinical trial are also specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. This policy does not expand coverage to services or items specifically excluded from coverage in the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Additional information can be found in MP015 Experimental, Investigational or Unproven Services.

Prior authorization and/or pre-certification requirements for services or items may apply. Pre-certification lists may be found in the member's contract specific benefit document. Prior authorization requirements can be found at <https://www.geisinger.org/health-plan/providers/ghp-clinical-policies>

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