

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Providers Indicated

SUBJECT: Visual Evoked Potential (VEP)

Visual Evoked Potential (VEP) is considered medically necessary for any of the following indications:

- To diagnose and monitor multiple sclerosis (acute or chronic phases);
- To localize the cause of a visual field defect not explained by lesions seen on Computerized Tomography (CT) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), metabolic disorders, or infectious diseases;
- To evaluate signs and symptoms of visual loss in persons who are unable to communicate (e.g., unresponsive person, etc.).

NOTE: VEP should not be used in lieu of recognized methods to conduct routine screening of infants and young children for vision and related disorders.

VEP testing is not reimbursable as a routine screening tool to meet the requirements of vision screening during an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) exam. However, if during an EPSDT exam the physician documents a medical need for additional vision services, (i.e. an abnormality is suspected) the physician is expected to make the appropriate referral for a more formal vision assessment. Physicians providing children's vision assessments should follow the American Academy of Pediatrics policy for "Eye Examination in Infants, Children, and Young Adults by Pediatricians". The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Program Integrity will conduct reviews of professional claims to ensure the medical necessity for VEP testing is appropriately documented in the medical records. Any claims for VEP testing performed that are not medically necessary are subject to recoupment.

This bulletin does not alter or change the policy for auditory evoked potentials test as outlined in the Private Rehabilitative Therapy & Audiological Services Manual.

For additional information on this policy update, please refer to the Physicians, Laboratories, and Other Medical Professionals manual located on our website at www.scdhhs.gov. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your Program Manager at (803) 898-2660. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/S/
Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mgws

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please register at <http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov/>. To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions.