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Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	

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Description:

Over the last several years, there has been an increased interest in testing hormone levels using saliva rather than blood, plasma, or urine. The tests available include but are not limited to progesterone, estrogen, testosterone, cortisol, melatonin, and dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA). The advantages to salivary hormone testing include the noninvasive nature and ease and convenience of sample collection, which can be done in the home. Salivary hormone tests are primarily promoted for the evaluation of menopause and aging and are now available to consumers over the internet without the need of a physician's prescription.

Criteria:

ODS considers salivary hormone testing experimental and investigational for the screening, diagnosis and/or monitoring of menopause or diseases related to aging, or any other indications. These tests have not been proven to be valid alternatives to serum tests. There are no published national practice guidelines that advocate the use of salivary hormone testing in the diagnosis, treatment or monitoring of patients with menopause, osteoporosis, or other consequences of aging.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:

None. Salivary hormone testing is considered to be experimental/investigational by ODS.

References:

- Vining RF, McGinley RA. The measurement of hormones in saliva: possibilities and pitfalls. J Steroid Biochem. 1987;27(1-3):81-94.
- Lawrence HP. Salivary markers of systemic disease: noninvasive diagnosis of disease and monitoring of general health. J Can Dent Assoc. 2002;68(3):170-4.
- American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE). Medical guidelines for clinical practice for management of menopause. Endocrine Practice. 1999; 5:355-366.
- Physician Advisors