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Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	



Approved: Neal Mills, MD, MBA Date: 03/15/11

Description:

Thermography, also known as thermal imaging, infrared imaging or temperature gradient studies, is a non-invasive imaging technique, which measures temperature variations at the body surface. The infrared radiation from the body tissue reveals temperature variations by producing brightly colored patterns on a liquid crystal display. Interpretation of the color patterns is thought to assist in the diagnosis of a variety of disorders and diseases. Thermography can include various types of telethermographic infrared detector images and heat-sensitive cholesteric liquid crystal systems.

Criteria:

ODS considers thermography experimental and investigational for all indications. Available medical literature indicates thermography is an ineffective diagnostic technique with no proven medical value.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:

None. Thermography is considered to be an experimental and investigational imaging technique.

Applicable CPT/HCPC:

Note: this list may not be all inclusive

93740	Temperature gradient studies
93760	Thermogram, cephalic
93762	Thermogram, peripheral

References:

- American Cancer Society. Mammograms and Other Breast Imaging Procedures. Revised October 26, 2010.
<http://www.cancer.org/Healthy/FindCancerEarly/ExamandTestDescriptions/MammogramsandOtherBreastImagingProcedures/mammograms-and-other-breast-imaging-procedures-newer-br-imaging-tests>
- Awerbuch MS. Thermography-wither the niche? Med J. Aust. 1991. April 1;154(7):444-447.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Thermography. Coverage Issues-Diagnostic Services 02-94. Accessed on January 31, 2011 at:
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/Pub06_PART_50.pdf
- Elmore JG, Armstrong K, Lehman CD, et al. Screening for breast cancer. JAMA. 2005; 293:1245-1256
- National Screening Unit Position Statement: The use of thermography for breast cancer screening. April 2004.
- Ng. EY, Kee, EC, Advanced integrated technique in breast cancer thermography. Journal of Medical Engineering and Technology 2008; 32(2); 103-114.
- What is breast thermography? International Academy of Clinical Thermology. Accessed January 31, 2011 at: . www.iact-org.org.
- Physician Advisors