

Premier Health Insuring Corporation

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: PA.101.PC
Last Review Date: 09/10/2015
Effective Date: 01/01/2016
Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

PA.101.PC – Transient Elastography

This policy applies to the following line(s) of business:

- ✓ Premier Health Insuring Corporation MA – DSNP

Premier Health Insuring Corporation considers Transient Elastography (TE) (e.g., FibroScan) medically necessary for the following indications:

- Initial assessment of fibrosis of members with a diagnosis with hepatitis C; or
- Follow-up assessment of fibrosis of members with a diagnosis of hepatitis C and previously documented F0, F1, or F2 per METAVIR staging guidelines

Note: TE is considered experimental and investigational for all other indications.

A. Limitations

TE (e.g. FibroScan) is considered not medically necessary and is therefore not covered if the member meets any of the following criteria:

- BMI of <19 kg/m² or >30 kg/m²
- Ascites
- Focal lesions within the liver (e.g., tumor)
- Acute liver injury
- Previously documented liver fibrosis of F3 or F4
- Pregnant
- Alanine transaminase (ALT) level five or more times the upper limit of normal (55 units per liter)
- Implanted metal device (e.g., pacemaker, automated implantable cardioverter defibrillator (AICD), or any other implantable defibrillators)
- TE performed within the previous 12 months
- Liver biopsy within the previous six months

Background

Fibrosis is a scarring process that replaces damaged liver cells, causing inflammation and leading to the formation of fibrous scar tissue in the liver. Transient Elastography (TE) is a non-invasive technique for the evaluation of fibrosis in chronic liver disease. TE serves as an alternative to liver biopsy, the gold standard for evaluating liver fibrosis. TE measures liver stiffness by tracking the wave speed through ultrasound.

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The only system suitable for performing TE is the FibroScan System (Echosens SA; Paris, France), as approved by the US FDA on April 5, 2013.

Code:

91200: Liver elastography, mechanically induced shear wave (e.g., vibration), without imaging, with interpretation and report

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