Section: Prescription Drugs  Effective Date: July 1, 2019
Subsection: Miscellaneous Products  Original Policy Date: June 7, 2012
Subject: Diabetic Test Strips  Page: 1 of 3

Last Review Date: June 20, 2019

Diabetic Test Strips

Description

Diabetic Test Strips

Background
Blood glucose test strips contain a chemical reagent system which is read by a blood glucose meter to display the glucose concentration in whole blood. The meter and test strips have been designed, tested and proven to work together effectively to provide accurate blood glucose measurements. Blood glucose tests are used to check for diabetes, monitor the treatment of diabetes and to check for diabetes that may occur during pregnancy (gestational diabetes).

Regulatory Status
Blood Glucose Monitoring Test Strips are approved by FDA for the quantitative measurement of glucose in capillary whole blood from the finger, forearm, and palm.

Related policies
Continuous Glucose Monitors, Continuous Glucose Monitor Supplies

Policy
This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Diabetic test strips may be considered medically necessary for testing blood glucose levels in patients with diabetes.
Prior-Approval Requirements

Diagnosis

The patient must have the following:

- Diabetes

AND ALL of the following must be provided

1) Directions for Use
2) Quantity required per 90 days
3) Reason for testing >6 times per day
4) NO dual therapy with Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) and/or Continuous Glucose Monitor supplies

Prior – Approval Renewal Requirements

Same as above

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

Quantity 612 strips every 90 days

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity  Up to 918 strips every 90 days

Duration 6 months for gestational diabetes
1 year for other types of diabetes

Prior – Approval Renewal Limits

Quantity Up to 918 strips every 90 days

Duration 6 months for gestational diabetes
1 year for other types of diabetes

Rationale

Summary
Blood glucose test strips contain a chemical reagent system which is read by a blood glucose meter to display the glucose concentration in whole blood. The meter and test strips have been designed, tested and proven to work together effectively to provide accurate blood glucose measurements. Blood glucose tests are used to check for diabetes, monitor the treatment of diabetes and to check for diabetes that may occur during pregnancy (gestational diabetes). Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of diabetic test strips while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

**Policy History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>New addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>Annual editorial review and reference update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>Annual editorial review and reference update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy code changed from 5.11.08 to 5.99.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2018</td>
<td>Addition of no dual therapy with Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) and/or Continuous Glucose Monitor supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Keywords**

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on June 20, 2019 and is effective on July 1, 2019.