GAIT ANALYSIS

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member’s specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms “experimental” and “investigational” are considered to be interchangeable.

Description:

Gait analysis is the quantitative laboratory assessment of coordinated muscle function during walking utilizing videotaped observation and surface electromyography (EMG). Video observation from several visual planes at slow speed allows detection of movements not discernable at normal speed, while EMG assesses the timing and intensity of muscle contractions in an attempt to determine whether a certain muscle’s activity is normal, out of phase, continuous or clonic. Gait analysis may also be referred to as dynamic surface electromyography (dynamic SEMG) or motion analysis.

Comprehensive gait analysis includes computer based motion analysis by videotape and 3D kinematics.
GAIT ANALYSIS (cont.)

Criteria:

- Gait analysis including comprehensive gait analysis is considered *medically necessary* for ANY of the following:
  1. To assess potential for improved gait efficiency as part of the evaluation for a microprocessor controlled knee prosthesis
  2. As an aid in surgical planning in individuals with gait disorders associated with cerebral palsy

- Gait analysis including comprehensive gait analysis for all other indications not previously listed is considered *experimental or investigational* based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome.

These indications include, *but are not limited to*:

- Surgical planning for conditions other than gait disorders associated with cerebral palsy
- Postoperative evaluation of surgical outcomes and rehabilitation planning and/or evaluation for all conditions

Resources:

1. 2.01.03 BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual. Gait Analysis. Re-issue date 02/14/2013, issue date 12/01/95.


GAIT ANALYSIS (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


