NASAL AIRWAY EVALUATION

- Acoustic Reflex Technology
- Acoustic Rhinometry
- Optical Rhinometry
- Rhinomanometry
- Sleep Sonography

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:**

The following methods have been investigated to evaluate the nasal airways:

**Rhinomanometry:**
Test of nasal function that measures air pressure and the rate of airflow in the nasal airway during respiration to calculate nasal airway resistance. Intended to be an objective quantification of nasal airway patency.

**Acoustic Rhinometry:**
Analysis of sound waves reflected from the nasal cavities to determine the dimensions of the nasal airways. Used to assess the geometry of the nasal cavity and nasopharynx and to evaluate nasal obstruction.
NASAL AIRWAY EVALUATION (cont.)

Description: (cont.)

Acoustic Reflex Technology:
A form of acoustic rhinometry that has been investigated in the evaluation of Sleep Disorders Dentistry, sleep disordered breathing (SDB) and the evaluation of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). Eccovision® Acoustic Rhinometer is a diagnostic system that uses acoustic reflection technology with a combination of a pharyngometer to map the oral airways and a rhinometer to map the nasal passages.

Optical Rhinometry:
Emitter and detector placed at opposite sides of the nose detect relative change in nasal congestion by the change in transmitted light.

Sleep Sonography:
Sleep apnea and snoring analysis (SNAP) is a home system that uses a microphone cannula device placed on the upper lip during sleep to record snoring and nasal airflow. Data are sent to SNAP laboratories where they are analyzed to determine the presence of apnea or hypopnea.

Criteria:

- Nasal airway evaluation by rhinomanometry, acoustic rhinometry, acoustic reflex technology, optical rhinometry or sleep sonography 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, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.

Resources:


NASAL AIRWAY EVALUATION (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


NASAL AIRWAY EVALUATION (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


