

Signal-Averaged Electrocardiography (SAECG)

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IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Medicare Advantage Medical Policy manual is not intended to override the member Evidence of Coverage (EOC), which defines the insured's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate how providers are to practice medicine. Physicians and other health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care for the individual member.

The Medicare Advantage Medical Policies are designed to provide guidance regarding the decision-making process for the coverage or non-coverage of services or procedures in accordance with the member EOC and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policies, when available. In the event of a conflict, applicable CMS policy or EOC language will take precedence over the Medicare Advantage Medical Policy. In the absence of CMS guidance for a requested service or procedure, the health plan may apply their Medical Policy Manual or MCG™ criteria, both of which are developed with an objective, evidence-based process using scientific evidence, current generally accepted standards of medical practice, and authoritative clinical practice guidelines.

Medicare and EOCs exclude from coverage, among other things, services or procedures considered to be investigational, cosmetic, or not medically necessary, and in some cases, providers may bill members for these non-covered services or procedures. Providers are encouraged to inform members in advance when they may be financially responsible for the cost of non-covered or excluded services.

DESCRIPTION

Signal-averaged electrocardiography (SAECG) is a technique involving computerized analysis of small segments of a standard ECG to detect abnormalities that would be otherwise obscured by “background” skeletal muscle activity.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE POLICY CRITERIA

Note: This policy does not address T-wave alternans. T-wave alternans is another technique for risk stratification, which; it measures beat-to-beat variability, while SAECG measures beat-averaged conduction.

CMS Coverage Manuals*	None
National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)*	Electrocardiographic Services (20.15) (Section B.1.)

Noridian Healthcare Solutions (Noridian) Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and Articles (LCAs)*

See also the LCD for *Electrocardiograms* ([L37283](#)), which provides additional criteria for ECGs, and can be used in conjunction with NCD 20.15.

POLICY GUIDELINES

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The information below **must** be submitted for review to determine whether policy criteria are met. If any of these items are not submitted, it could impact our review and decision outcome:

- All pertinent medical records and clinical documentation, detailing what actionable data the SAECG will provide; and,
- Medical condition or indication being treated.

CROSS REFERENCES

None

REFERENCES

None

CODING

Codes	Number	Description
CPT	93278	Signal-averaged electrocardiography (SAECG) with or without ECG
HCPCS	None	

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Medicare Advantage medical policies use the most current Medicare references available at the time the policy was developed. Links to Medicare references will take viewers to external websites outside of the health plan's web control as these sites are not maintained by the health plan.