## Executive Summary

**Purpose:** To identify and discourage the inappropriate use of high tech, high cost diagnostic imaging

**Why was this Issue Selected:** Studies indicate that for certain common presenting signs and symptoms there is a low yield of positive findings for potentially treatable lesions from CT of the Head or Brain

**Procedures subject to Pre-Certification**
- 70450  Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material
- 70460  Computed tomography, head or brain; with contrast material(s)
- 70470  Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections

**Setting & Population:** All Medicaid fee-for-service patients

### Type of Criteria:
- [ ] Increased risk of ADE
- [X] Appropriate Indications
- [ ] Non-Preferred Agent

### Data Sources:
- [ ] Only administrative databases
- [X] Databases + Prescriber-supplied

### Setting & Population

- Procedure Group for review: CT of Head or Brain
- Clinical Indications: Isolated, Nontraumatic Headaches; others tbd
- Age range: All patients
Approval Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Submitted ICD-9 Diagnoses</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Migraine/non-traumatic headache</td>
<td>346-346.93, 349.31, 784</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of localized neurologic signs or subjective numbness or tingling</td>
<td>368-368.47, 368.8, 368.9, 782.0, 781-781.99, 784.5, 780.4</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of lack of Motor Coordination</td>
<td>781-781.99</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions predisposed to intercranial pathology; history of HIV-positivity or cancer, or other populations at high risk (e.g. immunocompromised patients)</td>
<td>042, 191-191.9, 225, 228.02, 237.7, 279.3, 288-288.9, 340, 331.4, 331.5, 341-341.9, 742-742.9, 779.7</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idiopathic Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus INPH</td>
<td>331.5</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patients with non-acute headache accompanied with or described as:
- History of cancer
- History of localized neurologic signs or subjective numbness or tingling
- Rapidly increasing frequency of headache
- History of lack of motor coordination
- History of headache causing sleep disruption
- Sudden severe (“thunderclap”) or headache radiating to the neck
- Temporal headaches in individuals aged 55 and older
- Conditions predisposed to intracranial pathology: history of HIV-positivity, or other populations at high risk, e.g. immunocompromised patients

Denial Criteria

Patients with isolated, non-acute headache without any of the above and who:
- Normal neurologic examination
- Have had a CT or MRI of the Head or Brain in the last 60 days

References

