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Area Medical Policy
Lines Of Business All Lines of Business

Thyroid Screening

PURPOSE:

This policy is designed to discuss the medical necessity criteria for thyroid testing.

DEFINITIONS:

Hyperthyroidism: Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) occurs when your thyroid gland produces too much of the hormone thyroxine. Hyperthyroidism can accelerate your body's metabolism, causing unintentional weight loss and a rapid or irregular heartbeat.

Hypothyroidism: Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid) is a condition in which your thyroid gland doesn't produce enough of certain crucial hormones. Hypothyroidism may not cause noticeable symptoms in the early stages. Over time, untreated hypothyroidism can cause a number of health problems, such as obesity, joint pain, infertility and heart disease.

PROCEDURE:

1. Thyroid testing is considered not medically necessary, and therefore non-covered, as part of normal routine screenings as it has not shown to improve health outcomes.
2. Thyroid testing may be considered medically necessary for any of the following indications:
 - a. In individuals with multiple symptoms of hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism,
 - b. In individuals prescribed medications that may interfere with thyroid function,
 - c. Testing for thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) in any of the following situations:
 - a. To distinguish between primary and secondary hypothyroidism, or
 - b. For the evaluation of the cause of hypothyroidism,
 - d. Pregnant individuals (Total T4 and anti-TPO antibodies),
 - e. Individuals who are postpartum or undergoing evaluation for infertility who are

- experiencing symptoms of thyroid dysfunction,
- f. To evaluate individuals for the cause of postpartum depression (TSH, FT4, and thyroid peroxidase (TPO) tests),
 - g. To evaluate a thyroid nodule,
 - h. After head or neck radiation, thyroid surgery, or post-surgical evaluation, surveillance, and maintenance for differentiated thyroid carcinomas,
 - i. To evaluate the cause of morbid obesity (BMI greater than or equal to 40 kgm/m²),
 - j. Testing of residents in an area known for moderate to severe iodine insufficiency,
 - k. Thyroid antibody testing in the evaluation of autoimmune thyroiditis,
 - l. Testing for serum thyroglobulin and/or anti-thyroglobulin antibody levels for individuals with thyroid cancer for detection of tumor recurrence,
 - m. Evaluation of children with short stature.
3. Testing may be covered up to two times a year in clinically stable patients; more frequent testing may be reasonable and necessary for patients whose thyroid therapy has been altered or in whom symptoms or signs of hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism are noted.

Exclusions:

1. Testing for thyroid dysfunction in asymptomatic nonpregnant individuals for thyroid disease during general exam without abnormal findings
2. Testing of Reverse T3 and T3 uptake
3. Total T4 except for management of thyroid disease during pregnancy
4. Measurement of total or free T3 level when assessing levothyroxine (T4) dose in hypothyroid patients

Additional Information:

1. Signs and symptoms of hyperthyroidism:
 - a. Anemia
 - b. Hyperactivity and rapid speech
 - c. Lid retraction and lid lag
 - d. Warm, moist skin
 - e. Tachycardia
 - f. Tremor
 - g. Proximal muscle weakness
 - h. Hyperreflexia
 - i. Exophthalmos
 - j. Periorbital and conjunctival edema
 - k. Goiter

- l. Sudden unexplained weight loss
 - m. increased appetite
 - n. Nervousness, anxiety, and irritability
 - o. Sweating
 - p. Changes in menstrual patterns
 - q. Increased sensitivity to heat
 - r. Changes in bowel habits, especially more frequent bowel movements
 - s. Fatigue
 - t. Thinning of the skin
 - u. Fine, brittle hair
2. Signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism
- a. Anemia
 - b. Slow movement and slow speech
 - c. Delayed relaxation of tendon reflexes
 - d. Bradycardia
 - e. Carotenemia
 - f. Coarse skin
 - g. Constipation
 - h. Fatigue
 - i. Increased sensitivity to cold
 - j. Unexplained weight gain
 - k. Hoarseness
 - l. Elevated blood cholesterol level
 - m. Muscle aches, tenderness, and stiffness
 - n. Pain, stiffness, or swelling of the joints
 - o. Heavy or irregular periods
 - p. Thinning hair
 - q. Depression
 - r. Impaired memory
 - s. Puffy face and loss of eyebrows
 - t. Periorbital edema
 - u. Enlargement of the tongue
 - v. Diastolic hypertension
 - w. Pleural and pericardial effusions

- x. Ascites
- y. Galactorrhea

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES (Internal use only):

- This policy is to be implemented on a pre-payment basis for claims with the following code combinations:
 - Deny claims with 83520, 84432, 84436, 84437, 84439, 84442, 84443, 84445, 84479, 84480, 84481, 86376, or 86800 when combined with ANY of the non-covered diagnosis codes
 - Only deny the claim if the non-covered diagnosis code is the ONLY diagnosis code on the claim
 - Use denial code D055
- Claims with any other code combinations are implemented on a post-payment basis

CODING:

Procedure Codes:

CPT Code	Description
83520	Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen; qualitative or semiquantitative, quantitative, not otherwise specified
84432	Thyroglobulin
84436	Thyroxin; total
84437	Thyroxin; requiring elution (e.g., neonatal)
84439	Thyroxin; free
84442	Thyroxin binding globulin (TBG)
84443	Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)
84445	Thyroid stimulating immune globulins (TSI)
84479	Thyroid hormone (T3 or T4) uptake or thyroid hormone binding ratio (THBR)
84480	Triiodothyronine T3; total (TT-3)
84481	Triiodothyronine T3; free
86376	Microsomal antibodies (e.g., thyroid or liver-kidney), each
86800	Thyroglobulin antibody

Non-Covered Diagnosis Codes:

ICD-10 Code	Description
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Z00.00	Encounter for general adult medical examination without abnormal findings
Z00.129	Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings

Covered Diagnosis Codes (This is not an all-inclusive list):

ICD-10 Code	Description
A18.81	Tuberculosis of thyroid gland
C73	Malignant neoplasm of thyroid gland
C75.8	Malignant neoplasm with pluriglandular involvement, unspecified
C79.89-C79.9	Secondary malignant neoplasm of other specified sites, unspecified site
D09.3	Carcinoma in situ of thyroid and other endocrine glands
D09.8	Carcinoma in situ of other specified sites
D34	Benign neoplasm of thyroid gland
D35.2-D35.3	Benign neoplasm of pituitary gland, craniopharyngeal duct
D44.0	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of thyroid gland
D44.2	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of parathyroid gland
D44.9	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of unspecified endocrine gland
D49.7	Neoplasm of unspecified behavior of endocrine glands and other parts of nervous system
D53.9	Nutritional anemia, unspecified
D59.0-D59.19	Drug-induced and other autoimmune hemolytic anemias
D64.89-D64.9	Other specified/unspecified anemias
D89.82	Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome [ALPS]
D89.831-D89.839	Cytokine release syndrome
D89.89	Other specified disorders involving the immune mechanism, not elsewhere classified
E00.0-E07.9	Disorders of thyroid gland
E08.00-E13.9	Diabetes mellitus
E20.0-E20.9	Hypoparathyroidism
E22.1	Hyperprolactinemia
E22.8-E22.9	Other/unspecified hyperfunction of pituitary gland
E23.0-E23.1	Hypopituitarism
E23.6	Other disorders of pituitary gland
E25.0-E25.9	Adrenogenital disorders

E27.1-E27.49	Adrenocortical insufficiency
E28.310-E28.39	Primary ovarian failure
E29.1	Testicular hypofunction
E31.0-E31.9	Polyglandular dysfunction
E35	Disorders of endocrine glands in diseases classified elsewhere
E43-E46	Protein-calorie malnutrition
E53.0	Riboflavin deficiency
E64.0	Sequelae of protein-calorie malnutrition
E67.1	Hypercarotenemia
E75.26	Sulfatase deficiency
E78.00-E78.2	Pure hypercholesterolemia, pure hyperglyceridemia, mixed hyperlipidemia
E78.41-E78.5	Other/unspecified hyperlipidemia
E83.50-E83.59	Disorders of calcium metabolism
E83.81	Hungry bone syndrome
E87.0-E87.1	Hyperosmolality and hypernatremia; hypo-osmolality and hyponatremia
E88.02	Plasminogen deficiency
E89.0	Post-procedural hypothyroidism
E89.2-E89.3	Post-procedural hypoparathyroidism, hypopituitarism
E89.6	Post-procedural adrenocortical (-medullary) hypofunction
F03.90	Unspecified dementia without behavioral disturbance
F05	Delirium due to known physiological condition
F06.0-F06.8	Other mental disorders due to known physiological condition
F12.23	Cannabis dependence with withdrawal
F22	Delusional disorders
F23	Brief psychotic disorder
F07.0	Personality change due to known physiological condition
F30.10-F33.9	Manic episode; bipolar disorder; depressive episode; major depressive disorder, recurrent
F34.81-F34.9	Other/unspecified persistent mood [affective] disorders
F39	Unspecified mood [affective] disorder
F41.0-F41.9	Other anxiety disorders
F50.82	Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder
F53.0-F53.1	Mental and behavioral disorder associated with the puerperium, not

	elsewhere classified
G25.0-G25.2	Essential, drug-induced, other specified forms of tremor
G25.70-G25.79	Other and unspecified drug induced movement disorders
G25.89-G26	Other specified/unspecified extrapyramidal and movement disorders; and in diseases classified elsewhere
G30.0-G31.1	Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia, senile degeneration of brain, not elsewhere classified
G31.84	Mild cognitive impairment, so stated
G47.00-G47.09	Insomnia
G47.62	Sleep related leg cramps
G47.9	Sleep disorder, unspecified
G56.00-G56.03	Carpal tunnel syndrome
G56.13	Other lesions of median nerve, bilateral upper limbs
G56.23	Lesion of ulnar nerve, bilateral upper limbs
G56.33	Lesion of radial nerve, bilateral upper limbs
G56.43	Causalgia of bilateral upper limbs
G56.83	Other specified mononeuropathies of bilateral upper limbs
G56.93	Unspecified mononeuropathy of bilateral upper limbs
G57.83	Other specified mononeuropathies of bilateral lower limbs
G57.93	Unspecified mononeuropathy of bilateral lower limbs
G60.9	Hereditary and idiopathic neuropathy, unspecified
G61.82	Multifocal motor neuropathy
G71.9	Primary disorder of muscle, unspecified
G72.9	Myopathy, unspecified
G73.3-G73.7	Myasthenic syndromes/myopathy in diseases classified elsewhere
G93.3	Postviral fatigue syndrome
H02.531-H02.539	Eyelid retraction
H02.841-H02.849	Edema of eyelid
H02.881-H02.882	Meibomian gland dysfunction of right upper/lower eyelid
H02.884-H02.885	Meibomian gland dysfunction of left upper/lower eyelid
H05.20	Unspecified exophthalmos
H05.221-H05.229	Edema of orbit
H05.241-H05.259	Exophthalmos; constant, intermittent

H05.89	Other disorders of orbit
H11.421-H11.439	Conjunctival edema, hyperemia
H49.00-H49.23	Nerve palsy; third [oculomotor], fourth [trochlear], sixth [abducent]
H49.40-H49.43	Progressive external ophthalmoplegia
H49.881-H49.9	Other/unspecified paralytic strabismus
I10	Essential (primary) hypertension
I12.0-I13.2	Hypertensive chronic kidney disease, heart and chronic kidney disease
I16.0-I16.9	Hypertensive crisis
I31.3	Pericardial effusion (noninflammatory)
I31.9	Disease of pericardium, unspecified
I47.1	Supraventricular tachycardia
I47.9	Paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified
I48.0-I48.21	Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, persistent/chronic atrial fibrillation
I48.91	Unspecified atrial fibrillation
I49.2	Junctional premature depolarization
I49.8-I49.9	Other specified/unspecified cardiac arrhythmia
J91.8	Pleural effusion in other conditions classified elsewhere
J96.00 – J96.02	Acute respiratory failure
J96.90 – J96.92	Respiratory failure, unspecified
K14.8	Other diseases of tongue
K52.21-K52.29	Allergic and dietetic gastroenteritis and colitis
K52.89	Other specified noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis
K56.0	Paralytic ileus
K56.7	Ileus, unspecified
K58.1-K58.8	Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation, mixed or other irritable bowel syndrome
K59.00-K59.09	Constipation
K59.39	Other megacolon
L11.0	Acquired keratosis follicularis
L29.9	Pruritus, unspecified
L60.1-L60.8	Nail disorders
L62	Nail disorders in diseases classified elsewhere
L63.0-L65.9	Alopecia areata, androgenic alopecia, other nonscarring hair loss

L66.0	Pseudopelade
L66.2	Folliculitis decalvans
L66.8-L66.9	Other/unspecified cicatricial alopecia
L80	Vitiligo
L85.0-L85.2	Acquired ichthyosis; keratosis [keratoderma], keratosis punctata (palmaris et plantaris)
L86	Keratoderma in diseases classified elsewhere
L87.0	Keratosis follicularis et parafollicularis in cutem penetrans
L87.2	Elastosis perforans serpiginosa
M04.1-M04.9	Autoinflammatory syndromes
M32.0-M32.9	Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
M33.00-M34.9	Dermatopolymyositis; systemic sclerosis [scleroderma]
M35.1	Other overlap syndromes
M35.5	Multifocal fibrosclerosis
M35.81-M35.9	Multisystem inflammatory syndrome; systemic involvement of connective tissue unspecified
M36.0	Dermato(poly)myositis in neoplastic disease
M36.8	Systemic disorders of connective tissue in other diseases classified elsewhere
M60.80-M60.9	Other/unspecified myositis
M62.50-M62.59	Muscle wasting and atrophy, not elsewhere classified
M62.81	Muscle weakness (generalized)
M62.9	Disorder of muscle, unspecified
M63.80-M63.89	Disorders of muscle in diseases classified elsewhere
M79.10-M79.18	Myalgia
M79.7	Fibromyalgia
M81.6-M81.8	Localized osteoporosis [Lequesne]; other osteoporosis without current pathological fracture
M86.9	Osteomyelitis, unspecified
N91.0-N91.5	Absent, scanty and rare menstruation
N92.0	Excessive and frequent menstruation with regular cycle
N92.5-N92.6	Other specified/unspecified irregular menstruation
N94.4-N94.6	Dysmenorrhea, primary, secondary, unspecified

N97.0 – N97.9	Female Infertility
009.00-009.03	Supervision of pregnancy with history of infertility
009.211-009.219	Supervision of pregnancy with history of pre-term labor
009.511-009.529	Supervision of elderly primigravida and multigravida
012.00-012.03	Gestational edema (unspecified, first, second, third trimester), proteinuria, edema with proteinuria
012.04-012.05	Gestational edema complicating childbirth, the puerperium
012.10-012.13	Gestational proteinuria (unspecified, first, second, third trimester)
012.20-012.23	Gestational edema with proteinuria (unspecified, first, second, third trimester)
012.14-012.15	Gestational proteinuria complicating childbirth, the puerperium
012.24-012.25	Gestational edema with proteinuria complicating childbirth, the puerperium
013.1-013.3	Gestational [pregnancy induced] hypertension without significant proteinuria (first, second, third trimester)
013.4-013.5	Gestational [pregnancy-induced] hypertension without significant proteinuria complicating childbirth, the puerperium
014.00-014.03	Mild to moderate pre-eclampsia (unspecified, second, third trimester)
014.04-014.05	Mild to moderate pre-eclampsia complicating childbirth, the puerperium
014.10-014.13	Severe pre-eclampsia (unspecified, second, third trimester)
014.14-014.15	Severe pre-eclampsia complicating childbirth, the puerperium
014.20-014.23	HELLP syndrome (unspecified, second, third trimester)
014.24-014.25	HELLP syndrome complicating childbirth, the puerperium
014.90-014.93	Unspecified pre-eclampsia (unspecified, second, third trimester)
014.94-014.95	Unspecified pre-eclampsia complicating childbirth, the puerperium
016.1-016.3	Unspecified maternal hypertension (first, second, third trimester)
016.4-016.5	Unspecified maternal hypertension complicating childbirth, the puerperium
024.011-024.33	Pre-existing type 1, type 2, unspecified diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium
024.410-024.414	Gestational diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, diet controlled/insulin controlled
024.415	Gestational diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, controlled by oral hypoglycemic drugs
024.420-024.424	Gestational diabetes mellitus in childbirth, diet controlled/insulin controlled
024.425	Gestational diabetes mellitus in childbirth, controlled by oral hypoglycemic

	drugs
O24.430-O24.434	Gestational diabetes mellitus in the puerperium, diet controlled/insulin controlled
O24.435	Gestational diabetes mellitus in the puerperium, controlled by oral hypoglycemic drugs
O24.811-O24.93	Other pre-existing/unspecified diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
O26.20-O26.23	Pregnancy care for patient with recurrent pregnancy loss
O36.8310-O36.8399	Maternal care for abnormalities of the fetal heart rate or rhythm
O44.20-O44.53	Partial placenta previa, low lying placenta
O90.5	Postpartum thyroiditis
O92.29	Other disorders of breast associated with pregnancy and the puerperium
O99.210-O99.215	Obesity complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
O99.280-O99.285	Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
P04.40	Newborn affected by maternal use of unspecified drugs of addiction
P04.42	Newborn affected by maternal use of hallucinogens
P05.09	Newborn light for gestational age, 2500 grams and over
Q38.2	Macroglossia
Q89.2	Congenital malformations of other endocrine glands
R00.0-R00.2	Tachycardia/bradycardia unspecified, palpitations
R06.00	Dyspnea, unspecified
R06.09	Other forms of dyspnea
R06.1	Stridor
R06.83-R06.89	Snoring, other abnormalities of breathing
R07.0	Pain in throat
R09.89	Other specified symptoms and signs involving the circulatory and respiratory systems
R13.0-R13.19	Aphagia and dysphagia
R18.0-R18.8	Ascites
R19.4	Change in bowel habit
R19.7-R19.8	Diarrhea, unspecified; other specified symptoms and signs involving the digestive system and abdomen
R20.0-R20.9	Disturbances of skin sensation

R23.4-R23.9	Changes in skin texture; other/unspecified skin changes
R25.0-R25.9	Abnormal involuntary movements
R27.0-R27.9	Other lack of coordination
R29.2	Abnormal reflex
R29.700-R29.742	National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) score
R40.0-R40.1	Somnolence, stupor
R40.20-R40.2124	Unspecified coma; coma scale, eyes open never or eyes open to pain
R40.2210-R40.2224	Coma scale, best verbal response none or incomprehensible words
R40.2310-R40.2324	Coma scale, best motor response none or extension
R40.2340-R40.2344	Coma scale, best motor response flexion withdrawal
R40.2410-R40.2444	Glasgow coma scale score
R40.4	Transient alteration of awareness
R41.0-R41.3	Disorientation, amnesia
R41.82	Altered mental status, unspecified
R41.9	Unspecified symptoms and signs involving cognitive functions and awareness
R45.0-R45.1	Nervousness, restlessness and agitation
R45.3-R45.4	Demoralization and apathy, irritability and anger
R45.81-R45.82	Low self-esteem worries
R45.84	Anhedonia
R45.86-R45.87	Emotional lability, impulsiveness
R45.89	Other symptoms and signs involving emotional state
R47.02	Dysphasia
R47.1	Dysarthria and anarthria
R47.81	Slurred speech
R47.89-R47.9	Other and unspecified speech disturbances
R49.0	Dysphonia
R49.21-R49.8	Hypernasality and hyponasality, other voice and resonance disorders
R50.2-R50.9	Drug induced fever, other specified and unspecified fever
R52	Pain, unspecified
R53.0-R53.83	Malaise and fatigue
R60.0-R60.9	Edema, not elsewhere classified
R61	Generalized hyperhidrosis

R63.0	Anorexia
R63.2	Polyphagia
R63.4	Abnormal weight loss
R63.5	Abnormal weight gain
R68.0	Hypothermia, not associated with low environmental temperature
R68.81	Early satiety
R68.83	Chills (without fever)
R68.89	Other general symptoms and signs
R73.03	Prediabetes
R90.89	Other abnormal findings on diagnostic imaging of central nervous system
R94.6	Abnormal results of thyroid function studies
T66.XXXA	Radiation sickness, unspecified, initial encounter
U07.1	Covid-19
Z05.0-Z05.9	Encounter for observation and evaluation of newborn for suspected diseases and conditions ruled out
Z08-Z09	Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for malignant neoplasms, for conditions other than malignant neoplasm
Z19.1-Z19.2	Hormone sensitivity malignancy status
Z31.7	Encounter for procreative management and counseling for gestational carrier
Z79.3	Long term (current) use of hormonal contraceptives
Z79.84	Long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs
Z79.891-Z79.899	Long term (current) use of opiate analgesic, other drug therapy
Z83.430	Family history of elevated lipoprotein(a)
Z84.82	Family history of sudden infant death syndrome
Z85.020	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of stomach
Z85.030	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of large intestine
Z85.040	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of rectum
Z85.060	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of small intestine
Z85.110	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of bronchus and lung
Z85.230	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of thymus
Z85.520	Personal history of malignant carcinoid tumor of kidney
Z85.821	Personal history of Merkel cell carcinoma

Z85.850	Personal history of malignant neoplasm of thyroid
Z85.858	Personal history of malignant neoplasm of other endocrine glands
Z86.2	Personal history of diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism
Z86.32	Personal history of gestational diabetes
Z86.39	Personal history of other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic disease

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POST-PAYMENT AUDIT STATEMENT:

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by THP at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

DISCLAIMER:

This policy is intended to serve as a guideline only and does not constitute medical advice, any guarantee of payment, plan pre-authorization, an explanation of benefits, or a contract. This policy is intended to address medical necessity guidelines that are suitable for most individuals. Each individual's unique clinical situation may warrant individual consideration based on medical records. Individual claims may be affected by other factors, including but not necessarily limited to state and federal laws and regulations, legislative mandates, provider contract terms, and THP's professional judgment. Reimbursement for any services shall be subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreement, and applicable referral, authorization, notification, and utilization management guidelines. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, THP's policies apply to both participating and non-participating providers and facilities. THP reserves the right to review and revise these policies periodically as it deems necessary in its discretion, and it is subject to change or termination at any time by THP. THP has full and final discretionary authority for its interpretation and application. Accordingly, THP may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in any particular case.

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All Revision Dates

2/10/2023