Clinical Policy: Digital EEG Spike Analysis  
Reference Number: CP.MP.105  
Date of Last Revision: 10/21 

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description  
Electroencephalography (EEG) is a significant component of epilepsy diagnosis, along with a thorough medical history and neurological workup. Most EEGs today are performed on digital machines which record data and automatically detect spikes that may indicate seizures (ACNS, 2008). For the purpose of this policy, digital EEG spike analysis, which also is known as 3D dipole localization or dipole source imaging, refers to additional analysis of digitally recorded EEG spikes by a technician and a physician.

Policy/Criteria  
I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that digital EEG spike analysis, including topographic voltage and/or dipole analysis, is medically necessary for the presurgical evaluation of members/enrollees with intractable epilepsy, in conjunction with video EEG long-term monitoring.

II. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that digital EEG spike analysis is not medically necessary for any other indication.

Background  
According to the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society’s (ACNS) Guidelines for Long Term Monitoring of Epilepsy, digital EEG is the industry standard. Ambulatory EEG, video EEG, and routine EEG all use digital technology and usually incorporate automatic spike detection. These types of EEG analyses are not the same as digital EEG spike (3D dipole localization) analysis. A report by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and the ACNS states that multiple well-designed studies have established automatic spike and seizure detection via digital EEG as highly sensitive, though not very specific. This is also true of EEG in general. There are several reasons that an EEG would record a false positive, and most EEG patterns can be caused by a wide variety of neurologic conditions, while many diseases can produce more than one type of EEG pattern. Nonetheless, the AAN recommends EEG with automatic seizure and spike detection in clinical practice, commenting that “general clinical use in the community has been very positive.” Automatic spike detection can save a great amount of time as a technician or electroencephalographer does not have to visually review hours or days of data. However, there are specific circumstances in which further analysis of the EEG is required, beyond the automatic digital spike analysis.

Digital EEG spike analysis assessment and billing should not be used for cases when the EEG was only recorded on digital equipment. Digital EEG spike analysis assessment is reserved specifically for times when substantial additional digital analysis was medically necessary and was performed, such as 3D dipole localization. In these specific circumstances, this would entail an additional hour's work by the technician to process the data from the digital EEG as well as an extra 20 to 30 minutes of physician time to review the technician's work and review the data.
Digital EEG Spike Analysis

produced. This type of analysis is most commonly performed at specialty centers that involve epilepsy surgery programs.9

The AAN and ACNS recommend further digital analysis, in conjunction with review by a technician or provider, in the noninvasive evaluation of candidates for epilepsy surgery. They note that:

“The well-designed studies of this specific technique [dipole analysis] are few but consistent and confirmed in follow-up postoperatively. The clinical rationale seems clear. Control testing for evoked potential known cortical generator sites has confirmed the technical accuracy of dipole localization. The use of dipole analysis seems sufficiently demonstrated to warrant its clinical use in patients undergoing evaluation for surgical therapy for epilepsy. In other clinical settings, it has not been demonstrated to be sufficiently clinically useful to warrant general clinical use at this time.”1

It is important to note that the ACNS specifically states that ambulatory EEG is not appropriate for detailed characterization of EEG features as is required in presurgical evaluation.2

3D spike dipole source analysis, or digital EEG spike analysis, has been shown to be concordant with other modes of presurgical evaluation of epilepsy, including a thorough neurological workup with video EEG, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and multiple other imaging and neuropsychological tests; electrocorticography; and magnetoencephalography.6 Studies have demonstrated “that dipole source models can be successfully employed to detect the epileptogenic foci of interictal epileptiform discharges.”6 Park and others agree with the AAN and ACNS that digital EEG spike analysis is recommended for the presurgical evaluation of intractable epilepsy patients.6

**Coding Implications**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT® Codes</th>
<th>Procedure codes that support medical necessity criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95957</td>
<td>Digital EEG spike analysis when performed in conjunction with any of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>95718</td>
<td>Electroencephalogram (EEG), continuous recording, physician or other qualified health care professional review of recorded events, analysis of spike and seizure detection, interpretation and report, 2-12 hours of EEG recording; with video (VEEG)</td>
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## CLINICAL POLICY
**Digital EEG Spike Analysis**

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<tr>
<td>95720</td>
<td>Electroencephalogram (EEG), continuous recording, physician or other qualified health care professional review of recorded events, analysis of spike and seizure detection, each increment of greater than 12 hours, up to 26 hours of EEG recording; interpretation and report after each 24-hour period; with video (VEEG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>95722</td>
<td>Electroencephalogram (EEG), continuous recording, physician or other qualified health care professional review of recorded events, analysis of spike and seizure detection, interpretation, and summary report, complete study, greater than 36 hours, up to 60 hours of EEG recording, with video (VEEG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>95724</td>
<td>Electroencephalogram (EEG), continuous recording, physician or other qualified health care professional review of recorded events, analysis of spike and seizure detection, interpretation, and summary report, complete study, greater than 60 hours, up to 84 hours of EEG, with video (VEEG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>95726</td>
<td>Electroencephalogram (EEG), continuous recording, physician or other qualified health care professional review of recorded events, analysis of spike and seizure detection, interpretation, and summary report, complete study, greater than 84 hours, with video (VEEG)</td>
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### ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria
+ indicates a code requiring an additional character

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<tr>
<td>G40.011</td>
<td>Localization-related (focal) (partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset, intractable, with status epilepticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>G40.019</td>
<td>Localization-related (focal) (partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset, intractable, without status epilepticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>G40.111</td>
<td>Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, intractable, with status epilepticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>G40.119</td>
<td>Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, intractable, without status epilepticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>G40.211</td>
<td>Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, intractable, with status epilepticus</td>
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<td>G40.219</td>
<td>Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, intractable, without status epilepticus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G40.311</td>
<td>Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, with status epilepticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>G40.319</td>
<td>Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, without status epilepticus</td>
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<tr>
<td>G40.411</td>
<td>Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, with status epilepticus</td>
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## CLINICAL POLICY
Digital EEG Spike Analysis

### ICD-10-CM Code | Diagnosis codes that support medical necessity criteria
---|---
G40.419 | Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.803 | Other epilepsy, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.804 | Other epilepsy, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.813 | Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.814 | Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.823 | Epileptic spasms, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.824 | Epileptic spasms, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.911 | Epilepsy, unspecified, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.919 | Epilepsy, unspecified, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.A11 | Absence epileptic syndrome, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.A19 | Absence epileptic syndrome, intractable, without status epilepticus
G40.B11 | Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, intractable, with status epilepticus
G40.B19 | Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, intractable without status epilepticus

### Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

| Review/Update                                                                 | Revision Date | Approval Date |
---|---|---|
Policy created.                                                                | 1/16 | 1/16 |
References reviewed and updated. Added 6th digit to ICD 10 coding to clarify with or without status epilepticus, no codes added. | 12/16 | 1/17 |
References reviewed and updated.                                               | 12/17 | 01/18 |
References reviewed and updated.                                               | 01/19 | 01/19 |
Updated description. Removed Quantitative EEG from criteria I and reworded the statement. Removed CPT codes 95830, 95950, 95951, 95953, 95954, 95955, 95956 and 95958. Added CPT: 95718, 95720, 95722, 95724, 95726 (new codes for 2020.) Internal and external specialist reviewed. | 11/19 | 01/20 |
Replaced “members” with “members/enrollees” in all instances. References reviewed and updated. | 12/20 | 1/21 |
Changed “review date” in the header to “date of last revision” and “date” in the revision log header to “revision date.” References reviewed, updated and reformatted. Reviewed by specialist. | 10/21 | 10/21 |

### References


**Important reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members/enrollees. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment
CLINICAL POLICY
Digital EEG Spike Analysis

for members/enrollees. Members/enrollees should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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Note: For Medicaid members/enrollees, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members/enrollees, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at http://www.cms.gov for additional information.

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