

Medical Policy:

Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (IEI)

POLICY NUMBER	LAST REVIEW
EH.CCI.ME.61C6	April 8, 2022

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The treating physician or primary care provider must submit to EmblemHealth, or ConnectiCare, as applicable (hereinafter jointly referred to as “EmblemHealth”), the clinical evidence that the member meets the criteria for the treatment or surgical procedure. Without this documentation and information, EmblemHealth will not be able to properly review the request preauthorization or post-payment review. The clinical review criteria expressed below reflects how EmblemHealth determines whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary. This clinical policy is not intended to pre-empt the judgment of the reviewing medical director or dictate to health care providers how to practice medicine. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care.

EmblemHealth established the clinical review criteria based upon a review of currently available clinical information (including clinical outcome studies in the peer reviewed published medical literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors). EmblemHealth expressly reserves the right to revise these conclusions as clinical information changes and welcomes further relevant information. Each benefit program defines which services are covered. The conclusion that a particular service or supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered and/or paid for by EmblemHealth, as some programs exclude coverage for services or supplies that EmblemHealth considers medically necessary.

If there is a discrepancy between this guideline and a member's benefits program, the benefits program will govern. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests and procedures in a medical coverage policy is for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test or procedure over another. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a state, the Federal Government or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicare and Medicaid members. All coding and web site links are accurate at time of publication.

EmblemHealth may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. The MCG™ Care Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice. EmblemHealth Services Company, LLC, has adopted this policy in providing management, administrative and other services to EmblemHealth Plan, Inc., EmblemHealth Insurance Company, EmblemHealth Services Company, LLC, and Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York (HIP) related to health benefit plans offered by these entities. ConnectiCare, an EmblemHealth company, has also adopted this policy. All of the aforementioned entities are affiliated companies under common control of EmblemHealth Inc.

Definitions

Idiopathic environmental Intolerance (IEI) (formerly called multiple chemical sensitivity [MCS] or clinical ecological illness, clinical ecology, environmental illness, chemical AIDS, environmental/chemical hypersensitivity disease, total allergy syndrome, cerebral allergy or 20th century disease) has been used to describe a condition whereby an individual becomes chronically ill from exposure to chemicals in foods and the environment at doses far below the levels normally considered safe.

Reported symptoms are variable, but symptoms generally involve the central nervous system, respiratory and mucosal irritation, or gastrointestinal symptoms. Symptoms may include fatigue, difficulty concentrating, depressed mood, memory loss, weakness, dizziness, headaches, heat intolerance and arthralgia.

The most common environmental exposures include perfumes and scented products, pesticides, domestic and industrial solvents, new carpets, car exhaust, gasoline and diesel fumes, urban air pollution, cigarette smoke, plastics, and formaldehyde. Certain foods, food additives, drugs, electromagnetic fields, and mercury in dental fillings have also been reported as triggering events. However, symptoms do not bear any relationship to established toxic effects of the specific chemical, and occur at concentrations far below those expected to elicit toxicity.

In contrast to the frequently debilitating symptomatology, no specific and consistent abnormalities are noted on laboratory or other diagnostic testing. Other primarily subjectively defined disorders have symptoms which overlap with idiopathic environmental intolerance; these may include: Chronic fatigue syndrome, sick building syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome and Gulf War syndrome.

Guideline

Laboratory tests designed to affirm the diagnosis of IEI are considered investigational and not medically necessary. Treatment of IEI with intravenous immune globulin (IVIG), avoidance therapy, elimination diets, neutralizing therapy of chemical and food extracts, and oral nystatin (as a treatment for "candidiasis hypersensitivity syndrome") is considered **investigational and not medically necessary**.

Procedure Codes

86353	Lymphocyte transformation, mitogen (phytomitogen) or antigen induced blastogenesis
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ICD-10 Diagnoses

All diagnoses

References

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Graveling RA, Pilkington A, George JP, et al. A review of multiple chemical sensitivity. *Occup Environ Med.* 1999; 56(2):73-85.

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Specialty matched clinical peer review.

Revision History

Company(ies)	DATE	REVISION
ConnectiCare	Apr. 8, 2022	Connecticare adopts clinical criteria of its parent corporation EmblemHealth