

Subject: CT Soft Tissue Neck (70490, 70491, 70492)		Original Effective Date: 12/13/17
Policy Number: MCR: 605	Revision Date(s):	
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DISCLAIMER

This Molina Clinical Review (MCR) is intended to facilitate the Utilization Management process. It expresses Molina's determination as to whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary, experimental, investigational, or cosmetic for purposes of determining appropriateness of payment. 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 (i.e., will be paid for by Molina) for a particular member. The member's benefit plan determines coverage. Each benefit plan defines which services are covered, which are excluded, and which are subject to dollar caps or other limits. Members and their providers will need to consult the member's benefit plan to determine if there are any exclusion(s) or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and a member's plan of benefits, the benefits plan will govern. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of a State, the Federal government or CMS for Medicare and Medicaid members. CMS's Coverage Database can be found on the CMS website. The coverage directive(s) and criteria from an existing National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will supersede the contents of this Molina Clinical Review (MCR) document and provide the directive for all Medicare members.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE/SERVICE/PHARMACEUTICAL

CT (Computed Tomography) or CAT (Computed Axial Tomography) is an imaging scan that electronically processes many X-ray images obtained at different angles to produce detailed cross sectional views of soft tissues, bones and vascular structures. These cross sectional views can be reconstructed, rotated and displayed in many different planes. A CT scan can be performed either without (non-enhanced) or with (contrast enhanced) injection of iodine containing contrast material into a vein.

APPROVAL SUPPORT

For many clinical situations **either MRI or CT** are appropriate. MRI's often show soft tissue details better, and CT's often show boney detail better. The choice should be made by the radiologist and the ordering provider as to which is best for a given clinical situation.

Known tumor

- Initial evaluation of a recently diagnosed cancer
- Follow up of a known tumor or mass after completion of treatment or with new signs/symptoms
- Surveillance of a known tumor or mass according to accepted clinical standards

Suspected tumor

- Non-thyroid masses in the neck when they have characteristics suspicious for malignancy.
- Thyroid abnormalities should be evaluated with ultrasound as the preferred imaging modality
- Suspected parathyroid tumor due to elevated calcium and PTH levels and nuclear medicine scan and/or ultrasound are indeterminate
- Palpable lesions in mouth or throat

Suspected infections complication:

- Abscess or deep tissue infection suspected because of symptoms, physical exam, or prior imaging results

Other

- Vocal cord lesions or vocal cord paralysis
- Stones of the parotid and submandibular glands and ducts
- Tracheal stenosis
- Trauma with physical exam evidence of damage
- Congenital abnormalities (e.g. thyroglossal duct cyst)

Pre/Post Procedural

- Pre-operative/pre-procedural evaluation when detail is needed
- Post-operative/post-procedural for routine recommended follow up or for potential post-operative complications.
- A repeat study may be needed to help evaluate a patient's progress after treatment procedure intervention or surgery. The reason for the repeat study and that it will affect care must be clear.

ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION

The above medical necessity recommendations are used to determine the best diagnostic study based on a patient's specific clinical circumstances. The recommendations were developed using evidence based studies and current accepted clinical practices. Medical necessity will be determined using a combination of these recommendations as well as the patient's individual clinical or social circumstances.

- Tests that will not change treatment plans should not be recommended.
- Same or similar tests recently completed need a specific reason for repeat imaging.

REFERENCES USED FOR DETERMINATIONS

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	Description
70490:	CT (Computed Tomography) Neck (soft tissue) without contrast
70491:	CT (Computed Tomography) Neck (soft tissue) with contrast
70492:	CT (Computed Tomography) Neck (soft tissue) without and with contrast