MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	**Medical Response to Contamination from Terrorist Attacks**
Policy Number	**11.01.09**
Category	**Contract Clarification**
Original Effective Date	**01/24/02**
Committee Approval Date	**02/27/03, 03/25/04, 04/28/05, 04/27/06, 04/26/07, 04/24/08**
Current Effective Date	**08/22/24**
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Archive Review Date	**06/24/10, 06/24/11, 06/28/12, 06/27/13, 06/26/14, 06/25/15, 06/25/16, 08/25/17, 08/23/18, 08/22/19, 08/27/20, 08/19/21, 08/18/22, 08/17/23, 08/22/24**
Product Disclaimer	• *Services are contract dependent; if a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.* • *If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product), medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.* • *If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.* • *If a Medicare product (including Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product) covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.* • *If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.*

POLICY STATEMENT

I. Prophylactic testing and treatment (e.g., vaccination, antimicrobial or other pharmacological treatment) for terroristic agents, whether biological, chemical or radiological, is considered **medically appropriate** when local, state, and/or national agencies advise that such testing or treatment is medically necessary; and the service, vaccine, or drug is covered under the member's subscriber contract.

II. Coverage for all medically necessary aspects of diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury resulting from terrorism is considered **medically appropriate**, when contract benefits are available for the specified services.

DESCRIPTION

A terroristic attack is the calculated use of violence or threat of violence against people, to attain goals that are political, religious, or ideological in nature through intimidation or coercion, or by instilling fear. Terroristic attacks can be achieved through biological emergency (bioterrorism), chemical emergency, or radiological emergency.

Bioterrorism is the intentional or threatened use of viruses, bacteria, fungi, or toxins from living organisms to produce death or disease in humans, animals, or plants. Biological agents include, but are not limited to, the organisms that cause anthrax, botulism, plague, ricin, smallpox, tularemia, viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g., Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Machupol), as well as food or waterborne organisms (e.g., salmonella, shigella dysenteriae).

Terroristic chemical emergency occurs when a hazardous chemical is released that has a potential for harming the health of people. Examples of chemicals that may be used in terrorist attacks include, but are not limited to, nerve agents, mustards, and choking agents. Nerve agents (e.g., sarin, VX) are highly poisonous chemicals that cause neurological disruption and may lead to convulsion, paralysis, and respiratory failure. Mustards (e.g., sulfur mustard, nitrogen mustard) are vesicants, or blistering agents, which cause severe blistering of the eyes, respiratory tract, and skin on contact, damage

to the immune system, and bone marrow suppression. Pulmonary or choking agents (e.g., phosgene) are chemicals that cause severe irritation or swelling of the respiratory tract, hypotension, and cardiac failure.

Terroristic radiation emergency occurs when radioactive material is introduced into the food or water supply, explosives are used to scatter radioactive material (also known as a "dirty bomb"), a nuclear facility is bombed or destroyed, or a nuclear device is exploded. The adverse effects of radiation exposure can range from mild effects (e.g., skin reddening) to serious effects (e.g., cancer, death) depending upon the amount of radiation absorbed, the type of radiation, the route of exposure, and the duration of exposure.

CODES

- *Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.*
- *CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.*
- *Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.*
- *Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/ appropriate = (NMN).*

CPT Codes

Code	Description
86622	Antibody; Brucella
86668	Antibody; Francisella tularensis
86784	Antibody; Trichinella
86793	Antibody; Yersinia
90288	Botulism immune globulin, human, for intravenous use
90581	Anthrax vaccine, for subcutaneous or intramuscular use
90625	Cholera vaccine, live, adult dosage, 1 dose schedule, for oral use

HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
No code(s)	

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
A00.0-A00.9	Cholera (code range)
A20.0-A20.9	Plague (code range)
A21.0-A21.9	Tularemia (code range)
A22.0-A22.9	Anthrax (code range)
A23.0-A23.9	Brucellosis (code range)
A98.0-A98.8	Other viral hemorrhagic fevers (code range)
Y38.5x1A-Y38.5x3S	Terrorism involving nuclear weapons (code range)
Y38.6x1A-Y38.6x3S	Terrorism involving biological weapons (code range)
Y38.7x1A-Y38.7x3S	Terrorism involving chemical weapons (code range)
Z20.810	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to anthrax

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*Key Article

KEY WORDS

Bioterrorism, Chemical emergency, Germ warfare, Radiation emergency.

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

Based upon our review, medical response to acts of terrorism is not addressed in National or Regional Medicare coverage determinations or policies.