

Thyroid Testing

CPT: 84436, 84439, 84443, 84479

Summary of CMS National Coverage Policies*

Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

Thyroid function studies are used to delineate the presence or absence of hormonal abnormalities of the thyroid and pituitary glands. These abnormalities may be either primary or secondary and often but not always accompany clinically defined signs and symptoms indicative of thyroid dysfunction.

Laboratory evaluation of thyroid function has become more scientifically defined. Tests can be done with increased specificity, thereby reducing the number of tests needed to diagnose and follow treatment of most thyroid disease. Measurements of serum sensitive thyroidstimulating hormone (TSH) levels, complemented by determination of thyroid hormone levels [free thyroxine (fT₄) or total thyroxine (T₄) with Triiodothyronine (T₃) uptake] are used for diagnosis and follow-up of patients with thyroid disorders. Additional tests may be necessary to evaluate certain complex diagnostic problems or on hospitalized patients, where many circumstances can skew tests results. When a test for total thyroxine (total T₄ or T₄ radioimmunoassay) or T₃ uptake is performed, calculation of the free thyroxine index (FTI) is useful to correct for abnormal results for either total T₄ or T₃ uptake due to protein binding effects.

Indications

Thyroid function tests are used to define hyper function, euthyroidism, or hypofunction of thyroid disease. Thyroid testing may be reasonable and necessary to:

- Distinguish between primary and secondary hypothyroidism
- Confirm or rule out primary hypothyroidism
- Monitor thyroid hormone levels (for example, patients with goiter, thyroid nodules, or thyroid cancer)
- Monitor drug therapy in patients with primary hypothyroidism
- Confirm or rule out primary hyperthyroidism
- Monitor therapy in patients with hyperthyroidism

Thyroid function testing may be medically necessary in patients with disease or neoplasm of the thyroid and other endocrine glands. Thyroid function testing may also be medically necessary in patients with metabolic disorders; malnutrition; hyperlipidemia; certain types of anemia; psychosis and non-psychotic personality disorders; unexplained depression; ophthalmologic disorders; various cardiac arrhythmias; disorders of menstruation; skin conditions; myalgias; and a wide array of signs and symptoms, including alterations in consciousness; malaise; hypothermia; symptoms of the nervous and musculoskeletal system; skin and integumentary system; nutrition and metabolism; cardiovascular; and gastrointestinal system.

It may be medically necessary to do follow-up thyroid testing in patients with a history of malignant neoplasm of the endocrine system and in patients on long-term thyroid drug therapy.

Limitations

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.

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The ICD10 codes listed below are the top diagnosis codes currently utilized by ordering physicians for the limited coverage test highlighted above that are also listed as medically supportive under Medicare's limited coverage policy. *If you are ordering this test for diagnostic reasons that are not covered under Medicare policy, an Advance Beneficiary Notice form is required.*

*Please refer to the Limitations or Utilization Guidelines section on previous page(s).

CODE	DESCRIPTION
D64.9	Anemia, unspecified
E03.8	Other specified hypothyroidism
E03.9	Hypothyroidism, unspecified
E04.2	Nontoxic multinodular goiter
E05.90	Thyrotoxicosis, unspecified without thyrotoxic crisis or storm
E06.3	Autoimmune thyroiditis
E11.65	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia
E11.69	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other specified complication
E11.9	Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications
E78.00	Pure hypercholesterolemia, unspecified
E78.2	Mixed hyperlipidemia
E78.49	Other hyperlipidemia
E78.5	Hyperlipidemia, unspecified
E89.0	Postprocedural hypothyroidism
I10	Essential (primary) hypertension
R53.82	Chronic fatigue, unspecified
R53.83	Other fatigue
R73.03	Prediabetes
R94.6	Abnormal results of thyroid function studies
Z79.899	Other long term (current) drug therapy

To view the complete policy and the full list of codes, please refer to the CMS website [Home - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services | CMS](#)