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EVIDENCE-BASED CRITERIA
SECTION: MEDICINE

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MEASUREMENT OF EXHALED NITRIC OXIDE AND EXHALED BREATH CONDENSATE IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF RESPIRATORY DISORDERS

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Evidence-Based Criteria must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Evidence-Based Criteria provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Evidence-Based Criteria are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Evidence-Based Criteria, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Evaluation of exhaled nitric oxide (NO) and exhaled breath condensate (EBC) are proposed as techniques to diagnose and monitor asthma and other respiratory conditions. There are commercially available devices for measuring NO in expired breath and various laboratory techniques for evaluating components of EBC.

Nitric oxide (NO) is an important endogenous messenger and inflammatory mediator that is widespread in the human body, with functions including the regulation of peripheral blood flow, platelet functions, immune reactions, neurotransmissions, and the mediation of inflammation.

Exhaled breath condensate (EBC) consists of exhaled air passed through a condensing or cooling apparatus, resulting in an accumulation of fluid. Although EBC is primarily derived from water vapor, it also contains aerosol particles or respiratory fluid droplets, which in turn contain various nonvolatile inflammatory mediators, such as cytokines, leukotrienes, oxidants, antioxidants, and other markers of oxidative stress. There are a variety of laboratory techniques to measure the components of EBC, including such simple techniques as pH measurement and the more sophisticated gas chromatography/mass spectrometry or high-performance liquid chromatography, depending on the component of interest.

Criteria:

- Measurement of exhaled nitric oxide in the diagnosis and management of respiratory disorders is considered **experimental or investigational** when any **ONE** or more of the following criteria are met:
1. Lack of final approval from the appropriate governmental regulatory bodies (e.g., Food and Drug Administration); or
 2. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes; or
 3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome; or
 4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives; or
 5. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

These respiratory disorders include, *but are not limited to*:

- Asthma
- Chronic cough
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

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➤ Measurement of exhaled breath condensate in the diagnosis and management of respiratory disorders is considered **experimental or investigational** when any **ONE** or more of the following criteria are met:

1. Lack of final approval from the appropriate governmental regulatory bodies (e.g., Food and Drug Administration); or
2. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes; or
3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome; or
4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives; or
5. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

These respiratory disorders include, *but are not limited to*:

- Asthma
- Chronic cough
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Resources:

Literature reviewed 08/06/24. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

Resources prior to 08/06/24 may be requested from the BCBSAZ Medical Policy and Technology Research Department.

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**EVIDENCE-BASED CRITERIA
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MEASUREMENT OF EXHALED NITRIC OXIDE AND EXHALED BREATH CONDENSATE IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF RESPIRATORY DISORDERS

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Coding:

CPT: 83987, 94799, 95012

<u>History:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>
Medical Policy Panel	08/06/24	Review with revisions
Medical Policy Panel	08/01/23	Review with revisions
Medical Policy Panel	08/16/22	Approved guideline (Effective 9/19/22)
Medical Director (Dr. Deering)	07/11/22	Development

Policy Revisions:

08/06/24	Updated:	Resource section
08/01/23	Added:	“Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome; or”, and “Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, or” to experimental or investigational criteria bullets
08/01/23	Revised:	“Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting” from #3 to #5 in experimental or investigational criteria bullets
08/01/23	Updated:	Description section; Resource section



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Arabic:

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