Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Cervical Spine: Infection Initial Evaluation

Overview Statement

The purpose of these clinical guidelines is to assist healthcare professionals in selecting the medical service that may be appropriate and supported by evidence to improve patient outcomes. These clinical guidelines neither preempt clinical judgment of trained professionals nor advise anyone on how to practice medicine. The healthcare professionals are responsible for all clinical decisions based on their assessment. These clinical guidelines do not provide authorization, certification, explanation of benefits, or guarantee of payment, nor do they substitute for, or constitute, medical advice.

Federal and State law, as well as member benefit contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over clinical guidelines and must be considered first when determining eligibility for coverage. All final determinations on coverage and payment are the responsibility of the health plan. Nothing contained within this document can be interpreted to mean otherwise.

Medical information is constantly evolving, and HealthHelp reserves the right to review and update these clinical guidelines periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from HealthHelp. All trademarks, product names, logos, and brand names are the property of their respective owners and are used for purposes of information/illustration only.

Associated Procedure Codes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Code Description</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magnetic resonance (eg, proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, cervical; without contrast material</td>
<td>72141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnetic resonance (eg, proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, cervical; with contrast material(s)</td>
<td>72142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnetic resonance (eg, proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; cervical</td>
<td>72156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definition:

1. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the organs and tissues within your body. Most MRI machines are large, tube-shaped magnets. When you lie inside an MRI machine, the magnetic field temporarily realigns hydrogen atoms in your body. Radio waves cause these aligned atoms to produce very faint signals, which are used to create cross-sectional MRI images — like slices in a loaf of bread. The MRI machine can also be used to produce 3-D images that may be viewed from many different angles.

Guideline

Evaluation of possible cervical spine infection may be reasonable and appropriate when the patient’s medical record demonstrates fever and cervical spine pain.
References