Benefit Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Benefit for lines of business including:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Benefits Exchange (HBE), RItc Care (MED), Children with Special Needs (CSN), Substitute Care (SUB), Rhody Health Partners (RHP), Rhody Health Expansion (RHE), Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) Integrity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excluded from Coverage:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extended Family Planning (EFP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approval is based on review of the medical necessity documentation.

Description
Individuals are considered to have clinically significant IgE-mediated allergy or allergic disease when they have BOTH allergen-specific IgE AND develop symptoms upon exposure to substances containing that allergen. Skin testing is often the most rapid, sensitive and cost effective testing modality for the detection of IgE-mediated disease but there are some situations in which in vitro testing may be preferable to skin tests. In vitro/blood IgE allergen specific testing may be detectable several years before a patient becomes reactive to that allergen, and only a subset of sensitized patients develop actual symptoms. Almost half of the US population has detectable allergen-specific IgE against a food allergen, but the overall prevalence of clinical food allergy is only about 4 to 6 percent. Sensitization to an allergen is not synonymous with clinical allergy to the specific allergen. Blood IgE also tends to remain positive even if the individual has developed tolerance to the allergen.

Allergen specific IgE measurement is different from Total serum IgE measurement. Patients with allergic conditions often have higher serum levels of total IgE compared with the general population. However, an elevated total IgE provides no information as to what allergens the patient is sensitive. Total IgE measurement can be helpful in certain specific conditions such as allergic broncho-pulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) or in moderate or persistent asthma when considering treatment with anti IgE monoclonal antibody i.e. omalizumab (Xolair).

Coverage Determination
Specific IgE testing to individual suspected foods is allowed in cases where the member is suspected of having a specific food allergy e.g. egg, milk, peanuts, tree-nuts, shellfish etc. A limited panel will also be available for the most common respiratory or inhalant allergens (see below).
### Criteria

In vitro testing (e.g. ImmunoCAPs) is often preferred in the following situations but will not be limited to these situations.

- The patient is less than twelve months old (<12 months old) – (infants have smaller positive reactions to histamine and allergens and so skin testing may not fully reflect their allergies); **OR**
- The patient has certain skin conditions including widespread atopic dermatitis (affected areas difficult to test) and cutaneous mastocytosis because false positives are common; **OR**
- The patient had a recent (within 1 month) episode of anaphylaxis because of the risk of false negative results (anaphylaxis can render the skin temporarily non-reactive); **OR**
- The patient has a history of severe reactions to minute amounts of the allergen or has had a severe anaphylactic reaction to a specific allergen; **OR**
- Medications – if the patient is unable to discontinue antihistamines at least 48 hours prior to skin patch testing or if the patient is on beta 2-antagonists or angiotensin converting enzyme antagonists which may inhibit the management of anaphylaxis; **OR**
- Patients with significant cardiovascular disease, and elderly patients who may have an increased risk potential for skin testing related to the adverse effects inherent in treating anaphylaxis in such patients.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **NOT Required** | 1. A total of up to fifteen (15) allergens would be allowed per rolling twelve (12) month period without prior authorization.  
   a. Specific IgE testing for food allergens **must** be ordered separately and respiratory allergen testing can be ordered separately or using the panels below. |

| **Requires Authorization** | 1. Prior authorization is required for more than fifteen (>15) allergens per rolling twelve (12) months period.  
   a. If the testing is greater than fifteen (>15) units, an authorization request form for **all** units of service *including* the first fifteen (15) will need to be submitted. Services/claims with greater than fifteen units (>15) of service that have not been medically reviewed and approved will deny for lack of authorization for **all** units of service. |
Exclusions
Specific Ig E in vitro/blood testing is **NOT** considered a usual clinical option for any of the following indications:

1. Localized atopic dermatitis
2. Contact dermatitis
3. Urticaria
4. Angioedema
5. Asthma – mild intermittent
6. No diagnosis indicated on request

The following are **not** proven for the evaluation of allergy symptoms:

- Applied Kinesiology
- Skin titration (Rinkel method)
- Sublingual provocation
- IgG RAST/ELISA testing
- Urine Auto-injection -Basophil histamine release activation
- Cytotoxic assays
- Electrodermal test
- Endoscopic allergen provocation
- Gastric juice analysis
- Facial thermography
- Hair analysis
- Intradermal allergy testing for food allergens
- Mediator release assay (LEAP lifestyle, eating and performance diet) provocation neutralization

**Limited Respiratory/Inhalant Panel (NHPRI RESP)**
1. Birch (Common Silver)
2. Common Ragweed
3. Maple – Box Elder
4. Orchard Grass (Cocksfoot)
5. White Oak
6. Timothy grass
7. Cat Hair/Dander
8. Dog Dander
9. Cockroach
10. Dermatopharinae (House Dust Mite)
11. Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus

**Limited Mold Panel (NHPRI MOLD)**
1. Alternaria alternate (Outdoor mold)
2. Aspergillus fumigatus
3. Cladosporium herbarum
4. Penicillium chrysogenum

**Limited Pediatric Panel (NHPRI CHAP)**
1. Alternaria alternate (Outdoor mold)
2. Cat Hair/Dander
3. Dog Dander
4. Cockroach
5. Dermatoph farinae (House Dust Mite)
6. Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus

Please access Prior Authorization forms by visiting Neighborhood’s website at www.nhpri.org
1. Go to the section for Providers
2. Click on “Resources & FAQ’s”
3. Click on “Medical Management Request Forms” - forms are listed alphabetically by program.

Prior Authorization Forms
For assistance with prior authorizations please contact Clinical Administrative Support at 401-459-6060.
Fax authorization forms to 401-459-6023.

Covered Codes: For information on Coding please reference the Authorization Quick Reference Guide

CMP Cross Reference:

Created: 9/1/2013
Annual Review Month: November
Revision Dates: 11/19/2013, 11/18/2014, 11/3/2015, 08/22/2016, 11/9/18,
CMC Review Date: 11/19/2013, 11/18/2014, 11/3/2015, 09/13/2016, 11/14/17, 11/14/18, 12/4/19
Medical Director Approval Dates: 12/13/13, 12/29/2014, 11/3/2015, 10/6/2016, 12/28/17, 11/14/18

Disclaimer:

This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member’s coverage plan; a member’s coverage plan will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call member services. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing.
Neighborhood reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.

References:


Pearls and Pitfalls of allergy diagnostic testing; Report from the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology: Specific IgE Test Task Force 2008

http://www.aafp.org/afp/2008/0615/p1678.html

AFP Magazine: Summary of NIAID-Sponsored Food Allergy Guidelines July 1 2012 Vol 86 No. 1
http://www.aafp.org/afp/2012/0701/p43.html

The Benefits of Specific IgE testing in the Primary Care Setting Am J Manag Care 2011:17:S447-S459
http://www.ajmc.com/publications/supplement/2011/A338_A339_11dec/A338_A339_11dec_Faculty_S446/#sthash.pg2C2eqV.dpuf

Uptodate: The relationship between IgE and allergic disease; Accessed 11/6/17

Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Food Allergy in the United States: Report of the NIAID-Sponsored Expert Panel
http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(10)01566-6/fulltext#sec5.2.2.4