

SENSORY EVOKED POTENTIALS (SEP)

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I. CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

92585, 95925 - 95930

II. DESCRIPTION

Sensory evoked potentials (SEP) are electrical waves that are generated by the response of sensory neurons to stimuli. Changes in the electrical waves are averaged by a computer and then interpreted by a physician. Computer-averaged SEPs can be used to assist the diagnosis of certain neuropathologic states or to provide information for treatment management. Intraoperative monitoring of sensory evoked potentials is used during orthopedic or neurologic surgical procedures to reduce surgically induced morbidity and/or to monitor the level of anesthesia.

III. POLICY

Visual, auditory, and somatosensory evoked potential recordings that are medically necessary to diagnose, evaluate, assess recovery of brainstem function, measure the type and extent of hearing impairment, and to assess somatosensory function in unconscious patients or to supplement the EEG in evaluating brain death or irreversibility of coma are covered.

IV. EXCLUSION

Intraoperative monitoring of SEPs to define conceptional or gestational age in pre-term infants is unproven.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE May 18, 1993.

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