

Category III Codes

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Authority: [32 CFR 199.2\(b\)](#) and [32 CFR 199.4\(g\)\(15\)](#)

1.0 CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

0003T, 0008T, 0016T - 0019T, 0021T, 0024T, 0026T - 0032T, 0041T - 0161T

2.0 DESCRIPTION

Category III codes are a set of temporary codes for emerging technology, services, and procedures. These codes are used to track new and emerging technology to determine applicability to clinical practice. When a Category III code receives a Category I code from the American Medical Association (AMA) it does not automatically become a benefit under TRICARE. However, the codes that may have moved from unproven to proven must be forwarded to the Office of Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch (MB&RB) for coverage determination/policy clarification.

3.0 POLICY

3.1 Category III codes are to be used instead of unlisted codes to allow the collection of specific data. TRICARE has not opted to track Category III codes at this time.

3.2 Category III codes are excluded from coverage since clinical safety and efficacy or applicability to clinical practice has not been established.

4.0 EXCEPTIONS

4.1 Category III code 0024T may be covered under the Rare Disease Policy for children.

4.2 FDA IDE (Category B) clinical trial. See [Chapter 8, Section 5.1](#).

4.3 Category III codes 0145T - 0151T as outlined in [Chapter 5, Section 1.1](#).

4.4 Category III code 0073T is a covered service as listed in [Chapter 5, Section 3.1](#).

4.5 Category III codes 0075T and 0076T are covered codes as outlined in [Chapter 4, Section 9.1](#).

4.6 Category III code 0184T is a covered service as listed in [Chapter 4, Section 13.1](#).

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5.0 EXCLUSION

5.1 Unlisted codes for Category III codes. Effective January 1, 2002.

5.2 Ultrasound ablation (destruction of uterine fibroids) with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) guidance (CPT² procedure code 0071T) in the treatment of uterine leiomyomata is unproven.

5.3 Computer-Aided Detection (CAD) with breast MRI (CPT² procedure code 0159T) is unproven.

5.4 XSTOP Interspinous Process Decompression System (CPT² procedure codes 0171T and 0172T, HCPCS code C1821) is unproven.

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