

## Category III Codes

Issue Date: March 6, 2002

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

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### 1.0 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 Section (MB&RS) for coverage determination/policy clarification.

### 2.0 POLICY

**2.1** 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.

**2.2** Category III codes are excluded from coverage, **unless specifically noted in policy**, since clinical safety and efficacy or applicability to clinical practice has not been established.

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