

Origination Date: 4/05	Revision Date(s): 3/06, 3/07, 3/08, 3/09
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	

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Date: 03/16/09

**Description:**

Thermography, also known as thermal imaging, infrared imaging or temperature gradient studies, is a non-invasive imaging technique, which measures temperature variations at the body surface. The infrared radiation from the body tissue reveals temperature variations by producing brightly colored patterns on a liquid crystal display. Interpretation of the color patterns is thought to assist in the diagnosis of a variety of disorders and diseases. Thermography can include various types of telethermographic infrared detector images and heat-sensitive cholesteric liquid crystal systems.

**Criteria:**

ODS considers thermography experimental and investigational for all indications. Available medical literature indicates thermography is an ineffective diagnostic technique with no proven medical value.

**Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:**

None. Thermography is considered to be an experimental and investigational imaging technique.

**Applicable CPT/HCPC:**

**Note: this list may not be all inclusive**

93740	Temperature gradient studies
93760	Thermogram, cephalic
93762	Thermogram, peripheral

**References:**

- Elmore JG, Armstrong K, Lehman CD, et al. Screening for breast cancer. JAMA. 2005; 293:1245-1256
- What is clinical thermography? International Academy of Clinical Thermology. [www.iact-org.org](http://www.iact-org.org). Accessed April 18, 2005.
- Awerbuch MS. Thermography-wither the niche? Med J. Aust. 1991. April 1;154(7):444-447.
- National Screening Unit Position Statement: The use of thermography for breast cancer screening. April 2004.
- AMA policy statement. H-175.988 Thermography Update. Available at: [www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf\\_new/pf\\_online?f\\_n=browse&doc=policyfiles/HnE/H-175.988.HTM](http://www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf_new/pf_online?f_n=browse&doc=policyfiles/HnE/H-175.988.HTM). Accessed on 03/07/07
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Thermography. Coverage Issues-Diagnostic Services 02-94. Available at: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/Pub06\\_PART\\_50.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/Pub06_PART_50.pdf).
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