



UM-CDG-096 Ionized Calcium

Approved By:
Director, Health Services

Effective Date:
10/16/2025

This Policy applies to all SECUR affiliates, associates, and subsidiaries.

Approved by Courtney Gonzales, Director of Health Services on behalf of the Utilization Management Committee.

PURPOSE

This coverage determination guideline serves to address ionized calcium. Ionized calcium is a cation that circulates freely in the bloodstream and comprises 46-50% of all circulating calcium. Only the ionized calcium can be used by the body in such vital processes as muscular contraction, cardiac function, transmission of nerve impulses, and blood clotting. It is considered a more sensitive and accurate indicator for many operative procedures and disease processes. A normal serum ionized calcium for an adult is 4.65 – 5.28 mg/dl.

For SECUR Health Plan members, National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) will be applied to requests when applicable. SECUR Health Plan Coverage Determination Guidelines (CDG) will be utilized in the absence of an appropriate NCD and/or LCD.

DEFINITIONS

None

POLICY

SECUR Health Plan considers an ionized calcium test medically necessary under any of the following circumstances:

- Evaluation of members with clinical signs and symptoms of hyperparathyroidism such as weakness, fatigue, bone pain, confusion, depression, nausea, vomiting, polyuria, etc. in which parathyroid disease is suspected;
- Evaluation of members with clinical signs and symptoms of hypoparathyroidism such as Chvostek's sign, Trousseau's sign, dysphagia, tetany, increased deep tendon reflexes, etc. in which parathyroid disease is suspected;
- Evaluation of a member with an abnormal total calcium level;
- Monitoring of a member with renal disease, renal transplantation, or hemodialysis;
- Members with previously diagnosed hyper or hypoparathyroidism;
- Members with pancreatitis as characterized by symptoms such as epigastric abdominal pain, nausea and/or vomiting, fever, hypotension, mild jaundice, umbilical discoloration (Cullen's sign), etc.;

- Members with a magnesium deficiency and/or excessive Vitamin D;
- Members with sepsis as characterized by symptoms such as hypotension, tachycardia, tachypnea, change in mental status, etc.; and
- Members with ectopic parathyroid hormone producing neoplasms.

References:

1. Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L34011 (retired) Ionized Calcium. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=34011&ver=18&bc=0>
2. First Coast Service Options, Inc. reference LCD number(s) – L28918, L29206, L29442
3. Anderson, D.M., Keith, J., Novak, P.D., & Elliot, M.A. (2002). *Mosby's Medical Dictionary, Sixth Edition*. St. Louis: Mosby, Inc.
4. Beers, M., & Berkow, R. (1999-2005). Calcium Metabolism. {Electronic version}. *The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, Section 2, Chapter 12*.
5. Nissl, J. (2004, November). *Calcium (Ca) in Blood, Health Guide A-Z*. Retrieved June 14, 2005.
6. CMS IOM Publication 100-08, *Medicare Program Integrity Manual*, Chapter 13, Section 13.5.4
7. Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: Ionized Calcium, A57120 (retired) <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=57120&ver=19&>

