Clinical Review Criteria
Peanut Challenge for Sensitized Infants

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Criteria
For Medicare Members
None

For Non-Medicare Members
Medical necessity review no longer required.

The following information was used in the development of this document and is provided as background only. It is not to be used as coverage criteria. Please only refer to the criteria listed above for coverage determinations.

Background
Food allergy affects 1-3% of children in developing countries, and the prevalence of food allergy has increased dramatically in the past several decades. For many years' scientists believed that delaying the introduction of allergenic foods into an infant’s diet was beneficial, though more recent evidence has questioned this assumption. The "Learning Early About Peanut Allergy" (LEAP) Study, sponsored in part by FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, hypothesized that the early introduction of peanuts into the diet of high-risk infants may prevent peanut allergy. LEAP Study design: The LEAP study enrolled 640 "high risk" infants between age 4 months and 11 months. High risk was defined as having moderate to severe eczema (persistent rash affecting > 75% of skin) and/or egg allergy since children with these problems are more likely to develop peanut allergy. All of the infants were skin tested to peanut. Those who had a strongly positive skin test (> 4 mm welt from prick test) were not allowed to continue in the study because they were assumed to have peanut allergy. The rest of the infants were randomly assigned to either consume peanut at least 3 days a week until age 5 (equivalent of 6 tsp peanut butter per week) or to avoid peanuts until age 5. Importantly, all these high-risk infants randomized to consume peanut underwent supervised oral challenge to peanut in the allergy clinic before feeding peanut at home.

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MPC Medical Policy Committee

Revision History
04/04/2017 Medical necessity review no longer required.

Codes
CPT: 95076, 95079 (with dx of peanut allergy)