

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 14.1

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

Issue Date: August 26, 1985

Authority: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2) and (c)(3)

I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

60000 - 60699

II. DESCRIPTION

A. The endocrine system consists of glands and other structures that elaborate internal secretions (hormones) which are released directly into the circulatory system and which influence metabolism and other body processes.

B. Organs having endocrine function include the pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands, the pineal body, the gonads, the pancreas, and the paraganglia.

III. POLICY

Medically necessary services and supplies required in the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury involving the endocrine system are covered in accordance with the provisions of 32 CFR 199.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. To detect thyroid dysfunction in an outpatient setting, the thyroid function test, sensitive thyrotropin (sTSH), should be ordered alone in the majority of cases, instead of performing this test simultaneously with the free thyroxine (FT4) test. Circumstances that warrant concurrent sTSH and FT4 testing is with pituitary or hypothalamic disease, with newly diagnosed or treated hyperthyroidism, and when there is suppressive therapy with thyroxine.

B. The FT4 test should not be routinely ordered if the sTSH result is normal.

C. An abnormal sTSH level should be followed by FT4 testing or other thyroid function tests.

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