



## NHS MEDICAL POLICY

### Muscle, Skin and Nerve Biopsies Procedure 2018-002

#### A. Muscle biopsy may be indicated to evaluate any ONE of the following conditions:

1	Muscle weakness of uncertain etiology
2	Myositis, dermatomyositis, polymyositis, polyarteritis nodosa, vasculitis or other connective tissue and rheumatologic disorders affecting muscles
3	Myopathy: inclusion, metabolic, mitochondrial, inflammatory, viral, drug-induced, congenital
4	Muscular dystrophy or myotonic dystrophy, all types
5	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, myasthenia gravis or motor neuron disease
6	Muscle infarction or rhabdomyolysis
7	Post-polio syndrome
8	Sarcoidosis
9	Metabolic disorders (e.g. glycogen storage disease, lactate dehydrogenase deficiency, hypokalemic periodic paralysis, phosphoglycerate mutase deficiency, phosphoglycerate kinase deficiency, phosphorylase b kinase deficiency)

**B. Skin or nerve biopsy may be indicated to evaluate any ONE of the following conditions:**

1	Malignancy, leprosy or infection
2	Polyneuropathy or peripheral nerve disease
3	Amyloidosis, polyarteritis nodosa, cutaneous vasculitis, Sjögren's syndrome, blistering disorders or other connective tissue and rheumatologic disorders affecting skin and nerves
4	Cerebral autosomal dominant arteriopathy with subcortical infarcts and leukoencephalopathy (CADASIL)
5	<p>Skin biopsy with epidermal nerve fiber density measurement is indicated for the diagnosis of small-fiber neuropathy when ALL of the following are present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The member has symptoms of painful sensory neuropathy.</li><li>• The provider has documented that NONE of the following disorders are present:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Diabetic neuropathy</li><li>✓ Toxic neuropathy</li><li>✓ HIV neuropathy</li><li>✓ Celiac neuropathy</li><li>✓ Inherited neuropathy</li></ul></li><li>• The provider has documented that NONE of the following physical examination findings consistent with large-fiber neuropathy are present:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ reduced or absent muscle-stretch reflexes</li><li>✓ reduced proprioception</li><li>✓ reduced vibration sensation</li></ul></li><li>• The provider has documented that electromyography and nerve conduction studies are normal and show no evidence of large-fiber neuropathy.</li></ul>

**SOURCES**

1. UpToDate.com was accessed Mar 9, 2018 – conditions listed above
2. Milliman Care Guidelines was accessed Mar 9, 2018
  - Musculoskeletal Surgery or Procedure GRG (SG-MS)
  - Head and Neck Surgery or Procedure GRG (SG-HNS)
  - Wound and Skin Management GRG (PG-WS)
3. Boruchow SA, Gibbons CH. Utility of skin biopsy in management of small fiber neuropathy. *Muscle Nerve* 2013; 48:877.
4. Devigili G, et al, The diagnostic criteria for small fibre neuropathy: from symptoms to neuropathology, *Brain*, 2008 Jul; 131(Pt 7):1912-25.
5. Lacomis D. Small-fiber neuropathy. *Muscle Nerve* 2002; 26:173.
6. Vlcková-Moravcová E, Bednarík J, Dusek L, et al. Diagnostic validity of epidermal nerve fiber densities in painful sensory neuropathies. *Muscle Nerve* 2008; 37:50.

**CODE REFERENCE** (This may not be a comprehensive list of codes to apply to this policy.)

11100, 11101, 20200, 20205, 64788, 64790, 64792, 64795, 88305, 88314, 88341, 88342, 88344, 88356

**POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION**

Date	Action/Description
03/13/2019	Annual review – no changes
03/12/2019	Annual review – no changes
03/12/2021	Annual review – no changes
03/28/2022	Annual review – no changes
02/22/2023	Annual review – no changes
02/20/2024	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee
03/24/2025	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee
03/24/2026	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee