



MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Ohio Medicaid

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Autonomic Nerve Testing-OH MCD-MM-1783	09/01/2026
Policy Type	
MEDICAL	

Medical Policy Statements are developed from a review of the available evidence-based, clinical information based on and supported by clinical guidelines from medical specialties, peer-reviewed medical and scientific studies, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, and other medical management industry standards to aid in determining the medical necessity of a service. Medically necessary services are defined in the plan-specific Evidence of Coverage, Member Handbooks, Provider Manuals, Medical Policy Statements, and/or other plan policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements do not guarantee an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (e.g., Evidence of Coverage, Member Handbook) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. Except as otherwise required by law, if there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract and/or provider agreement, then the plan contract and/or provider agreement will be the controlling document. Reasonable discretion may be used in interpreting and applying this Policy Statement to services provided in a particular case, and the policy may be modified at any time. Medical Policy Statements may be superseded by federal and state laws and regulations, as applicable. In the case of a discrepancy between the Policy Statement's effective date and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the law or regulation will govern.

Coverage for mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) benefits are provided at the same level as coverage for medical and surgical (M/S) benefits, as required by the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). MH/SUD benefits are not subject to limits or requirements that are more restrictive than those that apply to M/S benefits.

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A. Subject

Autonomic Nerve Testing

B. Background

The autonomic nervous system (ANS) coordinates multiple reflex actions which are essential for life. It controls the heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, respiration, pupillary reactivity, sweating, urination, sexual arousal, and regulates the functions of internal organs. This system provides the homeostasis of the cells, tissues, and organs throughout the body and protects against the disturbances imposed by the external and internal stressors.

The ANS has three main divisions: the sympathetic nervous system (SNS), the parasympathetic nervous system (PNS), and the enteric nervous system. In general, the SNS and PNS have opposing effects. Each region belonging to the 'pain matrix' interacts with ANS. The descending system regulates pain and creates a regulatory effect by the contribution of aminergic neurotransmitters.

Disorders of the ANS can affect any system of the body; they can originate in the peripheral or central nervous system and may be primary or secondary to other disorders. Symptoms suggesting autonomic dysfunction include orthostatic hypotension, heat intolerance, nausea, constipation, urinary retention or incontinence, nocturia, impotence, and dry mucous membranes. If a patient has symptoms suggesting autonomic dysfunction, cardiovagal, adrenergic, and sudomotor tests are usually done to help determine severity and distribution of the dysfunction.

Autonomic testing using automated devices, in which software automatically generates an interpretation, has not been validated. Most of these devices generate reports automatically and do not allow physician interpretation of the raw data, which is a serious design flaw when evaluating patients who have, for example, cardiac rhythm abnormalities that mislead the testing results.

C. Definitions

- **Autonomic Nervous System** – The part of the nervous system that controls involuntary visceral actions.
- **Cardiovagal innervation** – A test that provides a standardized quantitative evaluation of vagal innervation to parasympathetic function of the heart. Responses are based on the interpretation of changes in continuous heart recordings in response to standardized maneuvers and include heart rate response to deep breathing, Valsalva ratio, and 30:15 ratio heart rate responses to standing. A tilt table may be used but is not required.
- **Vasomotor adrenergic innervation** – A test that evaluates adrenergic innervation of the circulation and of the heart in autonomic failure. The following tests are included: beat-to-beat blood pressure and R-R interval response to Valsalva

maneuver, sustained hand grip, and blood pressure and heart rate responses to tilt-up or active standing and must be performed with a tilt table.

- **Sudomotor** – Function testing is used to evaluate and document neuropathic disturbances that may be associated with pain. The quantitative sudomotor axon reflex test (QSART), thermoregulatory sweat test (TST), sympathetic skin responses, and silastic sweat imprints are tests of sympathetic cholinergic sudomotor.
- **Sympathetic Skin Response** – A test to measure a provoked change in the electrical potential of the skin.

D. Policy

- I. CareSource considers autonomic nerve testing medically necessary to evaluate autonomic nerve function and aid in the diagnosis of **ANY** of the following conditions:
 - A. distal small fiber neuropathy
 - B. postural tachycardia syndrome
 - C. reflexive sympathetic dystrophy
 - D. recurrent variants of syncope
 - E. one or more of the following progressive autonomic neuropathies:
 1. diabetic autonomic neuropathy
 2. amyloid neuropathy
 3. Sjogren's syndrome
 4. idiopathic neuropathy
 5. pure autonomic failure
 6. multiple system atrophy

II. Limitations

Properly trained physicians with the necessary expertise should perform and interpret these tests. Training can be obtained through accredited residency/fellowship programs or AMA-approved continuing medical education courses.

III. Exclusions

- A. Autonomic nerve function testing to aid in the diagnosis of **ANY** other condition not listed above may not be covered or reimbursable.
- B. Screening patients without signs or symptoms of autonomic dysfunction, including patients with diabetes, hepatic or renal disease.
- C. Testing results that are not used in clinical decision-making or patient management
- D. The use of portable automated devices for autonomic nerve testing, including ANSAR ANX 3.0, VitalScan ANS, ANSiscope, or any similar device is considered experimental, investigational and non-covered.

E. Conditions of Coverage

NA

F. Related Policies/Rules

Experimental or Investigational Item or Service

G. Review/Revision History

DATE		ACTION
Date Issued	05/21/2025	New policy. Approved at Committee.
Date Revised	05/20/2026	Updated references. Approved at Committee.
Date Effective	09/01/2026	
Date Archived		

H. References

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