

# J6-NGS Heavy Metal Testing (A56757)

## Selenium

CPT: 84255

### CMS Policy for Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

Local policies are determined by the performing test location. This is determined by the state in which your performing laboratory resides and where your testing is commonly performed.

Medically Supportive  
ICD Codes are listed  
on subsequent page(s)  
of this document.

### Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

The term heavy metal testing is historically used to describe elements such as lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and chromium. In general, all of the heavy metals in inorganic form cause GI irritation, resulting in nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. The next most consistent toxicity for the heavy metals as a group, but not for every heavy metal, is renal toxicity. A further generalization is that each member of the heavy metal group tends to cause multi-organ toxicity. Many metals cause cutaneous abnormalities, such as irritant and allergic contact dermatitis, urticaria, keratoses, and premalignant and malignant lesions. Several of the heavy metals produce central and peripheral nervous system toxicity. Other metals cause pulmonary illness.

However, before any testing for heavy metal is ordered, a detailed medical history of the patient must be obtained, including a careful documentation of occupational and avocational exposure to these toxins. A complete physical examination must be done. While classified as heavy metals, this policy does not include iron or lithium since the former is typically tested for anemia issues and the latter is typically tested for monitoring of medications. In addition, iron testing is covered under the National Coverage Determination 190.18 (Serum Iron Studies).

### Indications

- **Selenium.** Serum and/or urine selenium testing is covered for beneficiaries with documented industrial exposure to selenium or on chronic renal dialysis.

### Limitations

- Testing for the following metals is non-covered: Boron, Phosphorous, Silica, Strontium, Sulfur, Uranium, Vanadium

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Please refer to the Limitations or Utilization Guidelines section on previous page(s) for frequency information.

The ICD10 codes listed below are the top diagnosis codes currently utilized by ordering physicians for the limited coverage test highlighted above that are also listed as medically supportive under Medicare's limited coverage policy. **If you are ordering this test for diagnostic reasons that are not covered under Medicare policy, an Advance Beneficiary Notice form is required.**

**\*Note—Bolded diagnoses below have the highest utilization**

Code	Description
N19	Unspecified kidney failure
T56.894A	Toxic effect of other metals, undetermined, initial encounter
T56.894D	Toxic effect of other metals, undetermined, subsequent encounter
T56.894S	Toxic effect of other metals, undetermined, sequela

Visit [QuestDiagnostics.com/MLCP](https://www.questdiagnostics.com/MLCP) to view current limited coverage tests, reference guides, and policy information.

To view the complete policy and the full list of medically supportive codes, please refer to the CMS website reference [www.cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov)

Last updated: 4/25/22

#### Disclaimer:

This diagnosis code reference guide is provided as an aid to physicians and office staff in determining when an ABN (Advance Beneficiary Notice) is necessary. Diagnosis codes must be applicable to the patient's symptoms or conditions and must be consistent with documentation in the patient's medical record. Quest Diagnostics does not recommend any diagnosis codes and will only submit diagnosis information provided to us by the ordering physician or his/her designated staff. The CPT codes provided are based on AMA guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.

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