Policy: MP227
Section: Medical Benefit Policy
Subject: Spaced Retrieval Training

I. Policy: Spaced Retrieval Training

II. Purpose/Objective:
   To provide a policy of coverage regarding Spaced Retrieval Training

III. Responsibility:
   A. Medical Directors
   B. Medical Management

IV. Required Definitions
   1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
   2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
   3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
   4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
   5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

V. Additional Definitions
Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

   a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
   b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
   c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
   d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
   e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

Medicaid Business Segment
Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

   (i) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
   (ii) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
   (iii) The service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional
capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age.

**DESCRIPTION:**
Spaced-Retrieval (SR) is a memory intervention that gives individuals practice at successfully recalling information over progressively longer intervals of time. The goal of SR is to enable individuals to remember important information for clinically meaningful periods of time.

**EXCLUSIONS:**
There is insufficient evidence in the current peer-reviewed, published medical literature to support the use of spaced retrieval training as a monotherapy for any application at this time. The use of this modality as a “stand-alone” therapy for cognitive impairment and/or memory-recall impairment is considered experimental, investigational, and unproven and is NOT COVERED.

**CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:** Spaced Retrieval Training

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services.*

**HCPCS/CPT Coding**

97532 – Development of cognitive skills to improve attention, memory, problem solving, direct patient contact by the provider, each 15 minutes.


**LINE OF BUSINESS:**

Eligibility and contract specific benefit limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supercede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD’s and NCD’s will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.

**REFERENCES:**


Hawley KS, Cherry KE. Spaced-Retrieval Effects on Name-Face Recognition in Older Adults with Probable Alzheimer’s Disease. Behavior Modification 2004;28(2): 276-296 [http://bmo.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/28/2/276](http://bmo.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/28/2/276)


This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 3/09

**Revised:**

**Reviewed:** 7/10, 7/11, 7/12, 7/13, 7/14, 7/15, 7/16, 6/17