



**Subject:** Prothrombin Time Home Monitoring\*

**Effective Date:** April 27, 2004

**Department(s):** Utilization Management

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**Policy:** The testing of prothrombin time at home by members or their designated caregiver(s) is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

**Objective:** To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to provide an alternative to the use of a commercial laboratory for a specified test.

**Procedure:**

1. Home prothrombin time monitoring must be ordered by a physician, and must include written documentation of at least the following:
  - a. That the member or designated caregiver has been trained and is capable of performing the test accurately
  - b. That the duration of anticoagulation therapy is expected to be at least six months from the time home monitoring is begun
  - c. The indication for anticoagulation
2. The ordering physician may bill for review of results of home prothrombin time monitoring (HCPCS code **G0250**).
3. HCPCS codes relevant to home prothrombin time monitoring are:

**G0248** (demonstration, at initial use, of home INR monitoring...under the direction of a physician)

**G0249** (provision of test materials and equipment for home INR monitoring...)

4. There is no code for the in-home prothrombin time measuring device.

Software or hardware required for downloading data from home prothrombin time testing systems to computers for the management of anticoagulation is not reimbursable because each is considered a convenience item and not medically necessary.

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\*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.