

MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY TITLE	TRANSCUTANEOUS ELECTRICAL NERVE STIMULATION AND TRANSCUTANEOUS AFFERENT PATTERNED STIMULATION
POLICY NUMBER	MP 6.020

CLINICAL BENEFIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MINIMIZE SAFETY RISK OR CONCERN. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MINIMIZE HARMFUL OR INEFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE APPROPRIATE DURATION OF SERVICE FOR INTERVENTIONS. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE THAT RECOMMENDED MEDICAL PREREQUISITES HAVE BEEN MET. <input type="checkbox"/> ASSURE APPROPRIATE SITE OF TREATMENT OR SERVICE.
Effective Date:	4/1/2026

POLICY

Trial of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)

A trial of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) of at least 30 days may be considered **medically necessary** to establish efficacy for the management of refractory chronic pain (e.g., chronic musculoskeletal pain or neuropathic pain) that causes significant disruption of function when the following conditions have been met:

- The pain is unresponsive to at least 3 months of conservative medical therapy; **and**
- The trial is monitored by a physician.

Continued Use of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)

Continued use of TENS may be considered **medically necessary** for treatment of refractory chronic pain (e.g., chronic musculoskeletal or neuropathic pain) that causes significant disruption of function when the following conditions have been met:

- Efficacy has been demonstrated in an initial therapeutic trial (see Policy Guidelines); **and**
- Compliance has been demonstrated in the therapeutic trial with the device used on a regular basis (e.g., daily or near daily use) throughout the trial period

Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) Garment

Form-fitting conductive garments may be considered **medically necessary** when the following conditions have been met:

- Pain condition meets TENS medically necessary criteria; **and**
- Garment has received permission or approval for marketing by the FDA; **and**
- Prescribed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant; **and**
- Prescribed for ANY of the following medical indications:
 - Area to be stimulated is large or there are multiple sites; or
 - Stimulation would be delivered so frequently that it is not feasible to use electrodes, adhesive tape, and lead wires; or
 - Areas are inaccessible with use of electrodes, adhesive tape, and lead wires; or
 - Documentation of medical condition (i.e., skin problems) that preclude the application of electrodes, adhesive tape, and lead wires

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TENS is considered **investigational** for the management of acute pain (e.g., postoperative or during labor and delivery) as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

TENS is considered **investigational** for the prevention or treatment of migraine headaches as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

TENS is considered **investigational** for the management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

Transcutaneous afferent patterned stimulation (TAPS) is considered **investigational** for the following conditions as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure:

- Essential tremor;
- Action tremor for Parkinson disease.

The use of TENS or TAPS for any other condition, including but not limited to the treatment of dementia, is considered **investigational** as there is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure.

Policy Guidelines

For the purposes of these policy guidelines, refractory chronic pain is defined as pain that causes significant disruption of function and has not responded to at least 3 months of conservative therapy, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications, ice, rest, and/or physical therapy.

Documentation for the trial should include:

- Initial assessment/evaluation of the nature, duration, and perceived intensity of pain;
- The types and duration of prior treatments;
- Treatment plan including ongoing medications and proposed use of TENS unit, including the frequency and duration of treatment.

Clinical summary of the trial to determine efficacy should include:

- Perceived intensity of pain with and without TENS (e.g., 2 point or 30% improvement in visual analog scale);
- Ongoing medication requirements for pain relief (if any);
- Other modalities (if any) in use for pain control;
- Actual use of TENS on a daily basis (frequency and duration of application).

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TENS devices may be delivered through a practitioner and require a prescription or obtained without a prescription. It is possible that prescribed devices provide higher intensity stimulation than units sold directly to the public.

Supplies

Separate allowance will be made for replacement supplies when they are reasonable and necessary and are used with a covered TENS. Usual maximum utilization is:

- 2 TENS leads – a maximum of one unit of A4595 per month or four units of A4556
- 4 TENS leads – a maximum of two units of A4595 per month or eight units of A4556
- A maximum of one unit of A4630 per month

A 4-lead TENS unit may be used with either 2 leads or 4 leads, depending on the characteristics of the individual’s pain. If it is ordered for use with 4 leads, the medical record must document why 2 leads are insufficient to meet the individual’s needs.

If the use of the TENS unit is less than daily, the frequency of billing for the TENS supply code should be reduced proportionally. Replacement of lead wires (A4557) more often than every 12 months would rarely be reasonable and necessary.

For ongoing TENS supplies the medical record must include documentation of current frequency and duration of use, effect on pain, and effect on function.

Cross-References:

- MP 2.062 Temporomandibular Disorder**
- MP 6.046 Threshold Electrical Stimulation as a Treatment of Motor Disorders**
- MP 6.047 Interferential Current Stimulation**
- MP 6.049 H-Wave Electrical Stimulation**
- MP 6.050 Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (PENS) and Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy (PNT)**
- MP 6.051 Neuromuscular and Functional Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation**

PRODUCT VARIATIONS

This policy is only applicable to certain programs and products administered by Capital Blue Cross and subject to benefit variations. Please see additional information below.

FEP PPO – Refer to FEP Medical Policy Manual. The FEP Medical Policy manual can be found at: <https://www.fepblue.org/benefit-plans/medical-policies-and-utilization-management-guidelines/medical-policies>

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DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation and transcutaneous afferent patterned stimulation are noninvasive neuromodulation techniques that involve the application of electrical stimulation to the surface of the skin. In addition to more traditional settings such as a physician's office or an outpatient clinic, these techniques can be self-administered in an individual's home.

TENS has been used to treat chronic intractable pain, migraine headache pain, postsurgical pain, and pain associated with active or post-trauma injury unresponsive to other standard pain therapies. It has been proposed that TENS may provide pain relief through the release of endorphins in addition to potential blockade of local pain pathways. TENS has also been used to treat dementia by altering neurotransmitter activity and increasing brain activity that is thought to reduce neural degeneration and stimulate regenerative processes. Transcutaneous afferent pattern stimulation (TAPS) is a similar treatment used for essential tremor and action tremor due to Parkinson disease.

Percutaneous electrical nerve stimulation is similar to TENS but uses microneedles that penetrate the skin instead of surface electrodes. Interferential stimulation uses a modulated waveform for deeper tissue stimulation and is believed to improve blood flow to the affected area.

Regulatory Status

TENS devices consist of an electrical pulse generator, usually battery-operated, connected by wire to two or more electrodes, which are applied to the surface of the skin at the site of the pain. Since 1977, a large number of devices have been cleared for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through the 510(k) process. Marketing clearance via the 510(k) process does not require data on clinical efficacy; as a result, these cleared devices are considered substantially equivalent to predicate devices marketed in interstate commerce before May 1976, the enactment date of the Medical Device Amendments. The cleared devices are also equivalent to devices that have been reclassified and do not require a premarket approval application. FDA product code: GZJ.

In 2014, the Cefaly® (STX-Med), which is a TENS device, was granted a de novo 510(k) classification by the FDA for the prophylactic treatment of migraine in patients 18 years of age or older. The Cefaly® Acute and Cefaly® Dual devices were cleared by the FDA through the 510(k) process for the acute treatment of migraine in patients 18 years of age or older and for both the acute treatment and prophylaxis of migraines in adults, respectively, in 2017. Other TENS devices cleared by the FDA through the 510(k) process for the prophylactic treatment of migraine in patients include Allive (Nu Eyne Co), Relivion (Leurolief Ltd.) and HeadTerm (Eesspress) among others. FDA product code: PCC.

In 2018, the FDA reviewed the Cala ONE™ TENS device (Cala Health) via the de novo pathway and granted approval for the device as an aid in the transient relief of hand tremors following stimulation in the affected hand of adults with essential tremor. This prescription

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device is contraindicated for use in patients with an implanted electrical medical device, those that have suspected or diagnosed epilepsy or other seizure disorder, those who are pregnant, and patients with swollen, infected, inflamed areas, or skin eruptions, open wounds, or cancerous lesions. In October 2020, the FDA granted breakthrough device designation to the Cala Trio™ device for the treatment of action tremors in the hands of adults with Parkinson’s disease. In November 2022, the Cala kIQ™ device was approved via the 510(k) pathway (K222237). The device is indicated to aid in the temporary relief of hand tremors in the treated hand following stimulation in adults with essential tremors. It was also approved to aid in the temporary relief of postural and kinetic hand tremor symptoms that impact some activities of daily living in the treated hand of adults with Parkinson’s disease. Cala Trio and Cala kIQ use transcutaneous afferent patterned stimulation (TAPS) therapy which consists of bursts of non-invasive electrical stimulation applied to the median and radial nerves.

In 2019, the FDA permitted marketing of the first medical device to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) – the Monarch® external Trigeminal Nerve Stimulation (eTNS) System by NeuroSigma. The FDA reviewed the system through the de novo premarket review pathway. This prescription only TENS device is indicated for patients 7 to 12 years of age who are not currently taking prescription ADHD medication. The Monarch eTNS System is intended to be used in the home under the supervision of a caregiver. The device generates a low-level electrical pulse and connects via a wire to a small patch that adheres to a patient’s forehead, just above the eyebrow.

In 2021, the FDA approved the Axon Therapy device (Neuralace Medical, Inc.) for marketing through the 510(k) process for relief of chronic, intractable postsurgical or posttraumatic pain in adults. The Axon Therapy device is an electromagnetic transcutaneous peripheral nerve stimulator. FDA product codes: QPL, IPF.

RATIONALE

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have chronic pain (e.g., musculoskeletal, neuropathic, and mixed pain conditions) who receive TENS, the evidence includes numerous randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and systematic reviews. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, quality of life, and medication use. The overall strength of the evidence is weak. The best evidence exists for treatment of chronic, intractable pain. Available evidence indicates that TENS can improve chronic intractable pain in some patients, and there is support for its use in clinical guidelines by specialty societies. To best direct TENS toward patients who will benefit, a short-term trial of TENS is appropriate, with continuation only in patients who show an initial improvement. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have acute pain (e.g., surgical, musculoskeletal, labor, and mixed pain conditions) who receive TENS, the evidence includes RCTs and systematic reviews. Relevant outcomes are symptoms functional outcomes, quality of life, and medication use. Overall,

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evidence for the use of TENS from high-quality trials remains inconclusive for most indications. A systematic review of TENS for acute and chronic pain found some evidence that TENS reduces pain intensity over and above that seen with placebo and other control groups in patients with acute pain, but small-sized trials contributed to imprecision in magnitude estimates. Systematic reviews have found that TENS may help reduce pain in patients with post-operative pain (post-caesarean and total knee arthroplasty), dysmenorrhea, and pain associated with labor and delivery. For low back pain, systematic reviews have found insufficient evidence to support or refute the use of TENS. Randomized controlled trials have reported mixed results in the efficacy of TENS across various acute pain conditions. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcomes.

For individuals who have essential tremors who receive TAPS, the evidence includes a pragmatic RCT, a nonrandomized, prospective study, and a retrospective database study. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, quality of life, and medication use. Although the RCT indicated reduced tremor power among patients receiving TAPS, the trial lacked thorough analysis of clinically relevant outcomes, was open-label, and short-term. Results from the nonrandomized study suggest that TAPS therapy is effective and safe for patients with essential tremors. However, the trial was limited by its open-label, single-arm design, lack of defined standards for what constitutes a clinically meaningful improvement in stated endpoints, and exclusion of patients who exited the study early from the pre-specified primary and secondary endpoint analyses. Further studies comparing TAPS to standard of care therapy for essential tremors are needed. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have action tremors associated with Parkinson disease who receive TAPS, the evidence includes a prospective, open-label, single-arm study. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, quality of life, and medication use. Results of the prospective trial suggest that repeated in-home TAPS therapy is effective for reducing tremor power and safe for patients with essential tremors. Limitations identified were the open-label, single-arm design, and lack of long-term outcomes. Further studies comparing TAPS to pharmacologic therapy for tremors associated with Parkinson disease are needed. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) who receive TENS, the evidence includes RCT. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, quality of life, and medication use. Results of the RCT concluded that TENS is an effective and safe treatment option for pediatric patients with ADHD. However, the study included a small patient sample and was of short duration. Further studies comparing TENS to standard of care therapy for ADHD are needed. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have chronic or episodic migraine who receive TENS for treatment of acute migraine, the evidence includes 3 double-blind, sham-controlled RCTs. Two of the RCTs evaluated healthcare-provider administration of a TENS device during a single episode in emergency departments, and 1 evaluated self-administration of the device at home during acute

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episodes over a 3-month period. The studies conducted in emergency departments showed clinically and statistically significant reductions in pain intensity and medication use within 2 hours of use. The self-administration study had mixed results: The difference in median pain scores before and after treatment was significantly higher in the TENS group at months 1 and 2, but at month 3 the difference was not statistically significant. Function and analgesic medication use did not differ between groups at any time point. Strengths of the RCTs included the use of a sham device and blinded outcome assessment using validated outcome measures. Although short-term pain relief was demonstrated at some time points, the quality of the overall body of evidence was downgraded due to inconsistency of results and heterogeneity in study settings. It is not clear whether the pain intensity reductions demonstrated in emergency department settings would generalize to other settings over longer time periods. Supporting evidence from RCTs is needed. Additionally, based on the existing evidence, it is unclear how TENS would fit into the current migraine treatment pathway, although it could provide benefit for those who do not receive adequate benefit from pharmacologic first- or second-line therapies, or who may have a contraindication to pharmacologic therapies. The specific intended use must be specified in order to adequately evaluate net health benefit. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have chronic or episodic migraine who receive TENS for migraine prevention, the evidence includes 1 RCT. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, quality of life, and medication use. The RCT (N=67) reported a greater proportion of participants achieving at least a 50% reduction in migraines with TENS than with sham placebo and modest reductions in the number of total headache and migraine days. In the intention-to-treat analysis, the reduction in the number of migraine days (run-in vs. 3-months) was not statistically significant. The proportion of responders (≥50% reduction in the number of migraine days/month) significantly higher in the TENS group. The number of migraine attacks from the run-in period to the 3-month evaluation, number of headache days, and antimigraine medication use were significantly lower for the active TENS group. The severity of migraine days did not differ significantly between groups. This manufacturer-sponsored trial needs corroboration before conclusions can be made with certainty about the efficacy of TENS for preventing migraine headaches. Additionally, based on the existing evidence, it is unclear how TENS would fit into the current migraine prevention pathway, although it could provide benefit for those who do not receive adequate benefit from pharmacologic first- or second-line therapies, or who may have a contraindication to pharmacologic therapies. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

DISCLAIMER

Capital Blue Cross' medical policies are used to determine coverage for specific medical technologies, procedures, equipment, and services. These medical policies do not constitute medical advice and are subject to change as permitted by law or applicable clinical evidence

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from independent treatment guidelines. Treating providers are solely responsible for medical advice and treatment of members. These policies are not a guarantee of coverage or payment. Payment of claims is subject to a determination regarding the member's benefit program and eligibility on the date of service, and a determination that the services are medically necessary and appropriate. Final processing of a claim is based upon the terms of contract that applies to the members' benefit program, including benefit limitations and exclusions. If a provider or a member has a question concerning this medical policy, please contact Capital Blue Cross' Provider Services or Member Services.

CODING INFORMATION

Note: This list of codes may not be all-inclusive, and codes are subject to change at any time. The identification of a code in this section does not denote coverage as coverage is determined by the terms of member benefit information. In addition, not all covered services are eligible for separate reimbursement.

Covered when medically necessary:

Procedure Codes							
A4558	A4595	A4630	E0720	E0730	E0731		

Investigational; therefore, not covered:

Procedure Codes							
A4540	A4542	E0733	E0734				

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
G54.1	Lumbosacral plexus disorders
G54.2	Cervical root disorders, not elsewhere classified
G54.3	Thoracic root disorders, not elsewhere classified
G54.4	Lumbosacral root disorders, not elsewhere classified
G54.5	Neuralgic amyotrophy
G54.8	Other nerve root and plexus disorders
G54.9	Nerve root and plexus disorder, unspecified
G55	Nerve root and plexus compressions in diseases classified elsewhere
G56.00	Carpal tunnel syndrome, unspecified upper limb
G56.01	Carpal tunnel syndrome, right upper limb
G56.02	Carpal tunnel syndrome, left upper limb
G56.03	Carpal tunnel syndrome, bilateral upper limbs
G56.10	Other lesions of median nerve, unspecified upper limb
G56.11	Other lesions of median nerve, right upper limb

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
G56.12	Other lesions of median nerve, left upper limb
G56.13	Other lesions of median nerve, bilateral upper limbs
G56.20	Lesion of ulnar nerve, unspecified upper limb
G56.21	Lesion of ulnar nerve, right upper limb
G56.22	Lesion of ulnar nerve, left upper limb
G56.23	Lesion of ulnar nerve, bilateral upper limbs
G56.30	Lesion of radial nerve, unspecified upper limb
G56.31	Lesion of radial nerve, right upper limb
G56.32	Lesion of radial nerve, left upper limb
G56.33	Lesion of radial nerve, bilateral upper limbs
G56.40	Causalgia of unspecified upper limb
G56.41	Causalgia of right upper limb
G56.42	Causalgia of left upper limb
G56.43	Causalgia of bilateral upper limbs
G56.80	Other specified mononeuropathies of unspecified upper limb
G56.81	Other specified mononeuropathies of right upper limb
G56.82	Other specified mononeuropathies of left upper limb
G56.83	Other specified mononeuropathies of bilateral upper limbs
G56.90	Unspecified mononeuropathy of unspecified upper limb
G56.91	Unspecified mononeuropathy of right upper limb
G56.92	Unspecified mononeuropathy of left upper limb
G56.93	Unspecified mononeuropathy of bilateral upper limbs
G57.00	Lesion of sciatic nerve, unspecified lower limb
G57.01	Lesion of sciatic nerve, right lower limb
G57.02	Lesion of sciatic nerve, left lower limb
G57.03	Lesion of sciatic nerve, bilateral lower limbs
G57.10	Meralgia paresthetica, unspecified lower limb
G57.11	Meralgia paresthetica, right lower limb
G57.12	Meralgia paresthetica, left lower limb
G57.13	Meralgia paresthetica, bilateral lower limbs
G57.20	Lesion of femoral nerve, unspecified lower limb
G57.21	Lesion of femoral nerve, right lower limb
G57.22	Lesion of femoral nerve, left lower limb
G57.23	Lesion of femoral nerve, bilateral lower limbs

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
G57.30	Lesion of lateral popliteal nerve, unspecified lower limb
G57.31	Lesion of lateral popliteal nerve, right lower limb
G57.32	Lesion of lateral popliteal nerve, left lower limb
G57.33	Lesion of lateral popliteal nerve, bilateral lower limbs
G57.40	Lesion of medial popliteal nerve, unspecified lower limb
G57.41	Lesion of medial popliteal nerve, right lower limb
G57.42	Lesion of medial popliteal nerve, left lower limb
G57.43	Lesion of medial popliteal nerve, bilateral lower limbs
G57.50	Tarsal tunnel syndrome, unspecified lower limb
G57.51	Tarsal tunnel syndrome, right lower limb
G57.52	Tarsal tunnel syndrome, left lower limb
G57.53	Tarsal tunnel syndrome, bilateral lower limbs
G57.60	Lesion of plantar nerve, unspecified lower limb
G57.61	Lesion of plantar nerve, right lower limb
G57.62	Lesion of plantar nerve, left lower limb
G57.63	Lesion of plantar nerve, bilateral lower limbs
G57.70	Causalgia of unspecified lower limb
G57.71	Causalgia of right lower limb
G57.72	Causalgia of left lower limb
G57.73	Causalgia of bilateral lower limbs
G57.81	Other specified mononeuropathies of right lower limb
G57.82	Other specified mononeuropathies of left lower limb
G57.90	Unspecified mononeuropathy of unspecified lower limb
G57.91	Unspecified mononeuropathy of right lower limb
G57.92	Unspecified mononeuropathy of left lower limb
G58.0	Intercostal neuropathy
G58.7	Mononeuritis multiplex
G60.0	Hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy
G60.1	Refsum's disease
G60.2	Neuropathy in association with hereditary ataxia
G60.3	Idiopathic progressive neuropathy
G60.8	Other hereditary and idiopathic neuropathies
G60.9	Hereditary and idiopathic neuropathy, unspecified
G89.21	Chronic pain due to trauma

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
G89.22	Chronic post-thoracotomy pain
G89.28	Other chronic postprocedural pain
G89.29	Other chronic pain
G89.4	Chronic pain syndrome
G90.50	Complex regional pain syndrome I, unspecified
G90.521	Complex regional pain syndrome I of right lower limb
G90.522	Complex regional pain syndrome I of left lower limb
G90.523	Complex regional pain syndrome I of lower limb, bilateral
G90.529	Complex regional pain syndrome I of unspecified lower limb
G90.59	Complex regional pain syndrome I of other specified site
M25.50	Pain in unspecified joint
M25.511	Pain in right shoulder
M25.512	Pain in left shoulder
M25.519	Pain in unspecified shoulder
M25.521	Pain in right elbow
M25.522	Pain in left elbow
M25.529	Pain in unspecified elbow
M25.531	Pain in right wrist
M25.532	Pain in left wrist
M25.539	Pain in unspecified wrist
M25.551	Pain in right hip
M25.552	Pain in left hip
M25.559	Pain in unspecified hip
M25.561	Pain in right knee
M25.562	Pain in left knee
M25.569	Pain in unspecified knee
M25.571	Pain in right ankle and joints of right foot
M25.572	Pain in left ankle and joints of left foot
M25.579	Pain in unspecified ankle and joints of unspecified foot
M25.59	Pain in other specified Joint
M25.78	Osteophyte, vertebrae
M43.20	Fusion of spine, site unspecified
M43.21	Fusion of spine, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M43.22	Fusion of spine, cervical region

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M43.23	Fusion of spine, cervicothoracic region
M43.24	Fusion of spine, thoracic region
M43.25	Fusion of spine, thoracolumbar region
M43.26	Fusion of spine, lumbar region
M43.27	Fusion of spine, lumbosacral region
M43.28	Fusion of spine, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M43.8X9	Other specified deforming dorsopathies, site unspecified
M46.1	Sacroiliitis, not elsewhere classified
M47.011	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.012	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, cervical region
M47.013	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, cervicothoracic region
M47.014	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, thoracic region
M47.015	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, thoracolumbar region
M47.016	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, lumbar region
M47.019	Anterior spinal artery compression syndromes, site unspecified
M47.021	Vertebral artery compression syndromes, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.022	Vertebral artery compression syndromes, cervical region
M47.029	Vertebral artery compression syndromes, site unspecified
M47.10	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, site unspecified
M47.11	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.12	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, cervical region
M47.13	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, cervicothoracic region
M47.14	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, thoracic region
M47.15	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, thoracolumbar region
M47.16	Other spondylosis with myelopathy, lumbar region
M47.20	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, site unspecified
M47.21	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.22	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, cervical region
M47.23	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M47.24	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, thoracic region
M47.25	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M47.26	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, lumbar region
M47.27	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M47.28	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M47.811	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.812	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, cervical region
M47.813	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M47.814	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, thoracic region
M47.815	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M47.816	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, lumbar region
M47.817	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M47.818	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M47.819	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, site unspecified
M47.891	Other spondylosis, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.892	Other spondylosis, cervical region
M47.893	Other spondylosis, cervicothoracic region
M47.894	Other spondylosis, thoracic region
M47.895	Other spondylosis, thoracolumbar region
M47.896	Other spondylosis, lumbar region
M47.897	Other spondylosis, lumbosacral region
M47.898	Other spondylosis, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M47.899	Other spondylosis, site unspecified
M47.9	Spondylosis, unspecified
M48.00	Spinal stenosis, site unspecified
M48.01	Spinal stenosis, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M48.02	Spinal stenosis, cervical region
M48.03	Spinal stenosis, cervicothoracic region
M48.04	Spinal stenosis, thoracic region
M48.05	Spinal stenosis, thoracolumbar region
M48.061	Spinal stenosis, lumbar region without neurogenic claudication
M48.062	Spinal stenosis, lumbar region with neurogenic claudication
M48.07	Spinal stenosis, lumbosacral region
M48.08	Spinal stenosis, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M48.10	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], site unspecified
M48.11	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], occipito-atlanto-axial region
M48.12	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], cervical region
M48.13	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], cervicothoracic region
M48.14	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], thoracic region

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M48.15	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], thoracolumbar region
M48.16	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], lumbar region
M48.17	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], lumbosacral region
M48.18	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M48.19	Ankylosing hyperostosis [Forestier], multiple sites in spine
M48.20	Kissing spine, site unspecified
M48.21	Kissing spine, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M48.22	Kissing spine, cervical region
M48.23	Kissing spine, cervicothoracic region
M48.24	Kissing spine, thoracic region
M48.25	Kissing spine, thoracolumbar region
M48.26	Kissing spine, lumbar region
M48.27	Kissing spine, lumbosacral region
M48.30	Traumatic spondylopathy, site unspecified
M48.31	Traumatic spondylopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M48.32	Traumatic spondylopathy, cervical region
M48.33	Traumatic spondylopathy, cervicothoracic region
M48.34	Traumatic spondylopathy, thoracic region
M48.35	Traumatic spondylopathy, thoracolumbar region
M48.36	Traumatic spondylopathy, lumbar region
M48.37	Traumatic spondylopathy, lumbosacral region
M48.38	Traumatic spondylopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M48.9	Spondylopathy, unspecified
M50.00	Cervical disc disorder with myelopathy, unspecified cervical region
M50.01	Cervical disc disorder with myelopathy, high cervical region
M50.02	Cervical disc disorder with myelopathy, mid-cervical region
M50.03	Cervical disc disorder with myelopathy, cervicothoracic region
M50.10	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, unspecified cervical region
M50.11	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, high cervical region
M50.12	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, mid-cervical region
M50.13	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M50.20	Other cervical disc displacement, unspecified cervical region
M50.21	Other cervical disc displacement, high cervical region
M50.22	Other cervical disc displacement, mid-cervical region

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M50.23	Other cervical disc displacement, cervicothoracic region
M50.30	Other cervical disc degeneration, unspecified cervical region
M50.31	Other cervical disc degeneration, high cervical region
M50.32	Other cervical disc degeneration, mid-cervical region
M50.33	Other cervical disc degeneration, cervicothoracic region
M50.80	Other cervical disc disorders, unspecified cervical region
M50.81	Other cervical disc disorders, high cervical region
M50.82	Other cervical disc disorders, mid-cervical region
M50.83	Other cervical disc disorders, cervicothoracic region
M50.90	Cervical disc disorder, unspecified, unspecified cervical region
M50.91	Cervical disc disorder, unspecified, high cervical region
M50.92	Cervical disc disorder, unspecified, mid-cervical region
M50.93	Cervical disc disorder, unspecified, cervicothoracic region
M51.04	Intervertebral disc disorders with myelopathy, thoracic region
M51.05	Intervertebral disc disorders with myelopathy, thoracolumbar region
M51.14	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, thoracic region
M51.15	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M51.16	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, lumbar region
M51.17	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M51.24	Other intervertebral disc displacement, thoracic region
M51.25	Other intervertebral disc displacement, thoracolumbar region
M51.26	Other intervertebral disc displacement, lumbar region
M51.27	Other intervertebral disc displacement, lumbosacral region
M51.34	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, thoracic region
M51.35	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, thoracolumbar region
M51.360	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbar region with discogenic back pain only
M51.361	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbar region with lower extremity pain only
M51.362	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbar region with discogenic back pain and lower extremity pain
M51.369	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbar region without mention of lumbar back pain or lower extremity pain
M51.370	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbosacral region with discogenic back pain only

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M51.371	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbosacral region with lower extremity pain only
M51.372	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbosacral region with discogenic back pain and lower extremity pain
M51.379	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbosacral region without mention of lumbar back pain or lower extremity pain
M51.84	Other intervertebral disc disorders, thoracic region
M51.85	Other intervertebral disc disorders, thoracolumbar region
M51.86	Other intervertebral disc disorders, lumbar region
M51.87	Other intervertebral disc disorders, lumbosacral region
M51.9	Unspecified thoracic, thoracolumbar and lumbosacral intervertebral disc disorder
M53.0	Cervicocranial syndrome
M53.1	Cervicobrachial syndrome
M53.2X7	Spinal instabilities, lumbosacral region
M53.2X8	Spinal instabilities, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M53.3	Sacrococcygeal disorders, not elsewhere classified
M53.80	Other specified dorsopathies, site unspecified
M53.84	Other specified dorsopathies, thoracic region
M53.85	Other specified dorsopathies, thoracolumbar region
M53.86	Other specified dorsopathies, lumbar region
M53.87	Other specified dorsopathies, lumbosacral region
M53.88	Other specified dorsopathies, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M53.9	Dorsopathy, unspecified
M54.10	Radiculopathy, site unspecified
M54.11	Radiculopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M54.12	Radiculopathy, cervical region
M54.13	Radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M54.14	Radiculopathy, thoracic region
M54.15	Radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M54.16	Radiculopathy, lumbar region
M54.17	Radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M54.18	Radiculopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M54.2	Cervicalgia
M54.30	Sciatica, unspecified side
M54.31	Sciatica, right side

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M54.32	Sciatica, left side
M54.40	Lumbago with sciatica, unspecified side
M54.41	Lumbago with sciatica, right side
M54.42	Lumbago with sciatica, left side
M54.50	Low back pain, unspecified
M54.51	Vertebrogenic low back pain
M54.59	Other low back pain
M54.6	Pain in thoracic spine
M60.80	Other myositis, unspecified site
M60.811	Other myositis, right shoulder
M60.812	Other myositis, left shoulder
M60.819	Other myositis, unspecified shoulder
M60.821	Other myositis, right upper arm
M60.822	Other myositis, left upper arm
M60.829	Other myositis, unspecified upper arm
M60.831	Other myositis, right forearm
M60.832	Other myositis, left forearm
M60.839	Other myositis, unspecified forearm
M60.841	Other myositis, right hand
M60.842	Other myositis, left hand
M60.849	Other myositis, unspecified hand
M60.851	Other myositis, right thigh
M60.852	Other myositis, left thigh
M60.859	Other myositis, unspecified thigh
M60.861	Other myositis, right lower leg
M60.862	Other myositis, left lower leg
M60.869	Other myositis, unspecified lower leg
M60.871	Other myositis, right ankle and foot
M60.872	Other myositis, left ankle and foot
M60.879	Other myositis, unspecified ankle and foot
M60.88	Other myositis, other site
M60.89	Other myositis, multiple sites
M60.9	Myositis, unspecified
M79.10	Myalgia, unspecified site

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M79.12	Myalgia of auxiliary muscles, head, and neck
M79.18	Myalgia, other site
M79.2	Neuralgia and neuritis, unspecified
M79.601	Pain in right arm
M79.602	Pain in left arm
M79.603	Pain in arm, unspecified
M79.604	Pain in right leg
M79.605	Pain in left leg
M79.606	Pain in leg, unspecified
M79.609	Pain in unspecified limb
M79.621	Pain in right upper arm
M79.622	Pain in left upper arm
M79.629	Pain in unspecified upper arm
M79.631	Pain in right forearm
M79.632	Pain in left forearm
M79.639	Pain in unspecified forearm
M79.641	Pain in right hand
M79.642	Pain in left hand
M79.643	Pain in unspecified hand
M79.644	Pain in right finger(s)
M79.645	Pain in left finger(s)
M79.651	Pain in right thigh
M79.652	Pain in left thigh
M79.659	Pain in unspecified thigh
M79.661	Pain in right lower leg
M79.662	Pain in left lower leg
M79.669	Pain in unspecified lower leg
M79.671	Pain in right foot
M79.672	Pain in left foot
M79.673	Pain in unspecified foot
M79.674	Pain in right toe(s)
M79.675	Pain in left toe(s)
M99.20	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of head region
M99.21	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of cervical region

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M99.22	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of thoracic region
M99.23	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of lumbar region
M99.24	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of sacral region
M99.26	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of lower extremity
M99.27	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of upper extremity
M99.28	Subluxation stenosis of neural canal of rib cage
M99.30	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of head region
M99.31	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of cervical region
M99.32	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of thoracic region
M99.33	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of lumbar region
M99.34	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of sacral region
M99.36	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of lower extremity
M99.37	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of upper extremity
M99.38	Osseous stenosis of neural canal of rib cage
M99.40	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of head region
M99.41	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of cervical region
M99.42	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of thoracic region
M99.43	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of lumbar region
M99.44	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of sacral region
M99.46	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of lower extremity
M99.47	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of upper extremity
M99.48	Connective tissue stenosis of neural canal of rib cage
M99.50	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of head region
M99.51	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of cervical region
M99.52	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of thoracic region
M99.53	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of lumbar region
M99.54	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of sacral region
M99.56	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of lower extremity
M99.57	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of upper extremity
M99.58	Intervertebral disc stenosis of neural canal of rib cage
M99.60	Osseous and subluxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of head region
M99.61	Osseous and subluxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of cervical region
M99.62	Osseous and subluxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of thoracic region
M99.63	Osseous and subluxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of lumbar region

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	Description
M99.64	Osseous and sUBLuxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of sacral region
M99.66	Osseous and sUBLuxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of lower extremity
M99.67	Osseous and sUBLuxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of upper extremity
M99.68	Osseous and sUBLuxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of rib cage
M99.69	Osseous and sUBLuxation stenosis of intervertebral foramina of abdomen and other regions
M99.70	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of head region
M99.71	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of cervical region
M99.72	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of thoracic region
M99.73	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of lumbar region
M99.74	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of sacral region
M99.76	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of lower extremity
M99.77	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of upper extremity
M99.78	Connective tissue and disc stenosis of intervertebral foramina of rib cage

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POLICY HISTORY

MP 6.020	08/28/2020 Consensus Review. No changes to policy statements. References updated.
	09/01/2020 Administrative Update. Added ICD10 code M25.59
	04/01/2021 Administrative Update. Added New Codes K1016, K1017, K1018, K1019
	05/04/2021 Minor Review. TENS for acute post-op pain changed to MN. Codes that were added on 04/01/2021 K1018 and K1019 moved to correct heading (INV). Rationale updated; References updated. Codes K1016 and K1017 moved to MP 2.092. Deleted INV bullets and replaced with one INV statement.
	09/07/2021 Administrative Update. Addition of new ICD-10 codes. Effective date 10/01/2021.

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09/22/2021 Administrative Update. Added new code K1023 to policy. Effective 10/01/2021
02/02/2022 Consensus Review. No change to policy statement. References reviewed and updated. Product Variations updated.
03/16/2023 Administrative Update. Revised K1019 description, effective 04/01/2023.
12/12/2023 Administrative Update. Added New Codes A4540, A4542, E0734 & E0733. Removed deleted codes K1018, K1019 & K1023. Effective 01/01/2024.
01/10/2024 Consensus Review. No change to policy statement. Background and Rationale updated. Referenced added. Removed ICD10 codes M48.00 and M54.5.
08/16/2024 Administrative Update. Added New Codes M51.360, M51.361, M51.362, M51.369, M51.370, M51.371, M51.372, M51.379. Removed M51.36 & M51.37. Effective 10/01/2024
01/14/2025 Minor Review. Policy titled changed to add Transcutaneous Afferent Patterned Stimulation. Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) changed from medically necessary to investigational for acute pain. Added criteria that Transcutaneous afferent patterned stimulation (TAPS) is considered investigational. Policy Guidelines, Background, Rationale and References updated.
06/25/2025 Administrative Update. Removed Benefit Variations Section and updated Disclaimer.
11/26/2025 Consensus Review. No change to policy statement. Cross Referenced policies and References updated.

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