

MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY TITLE	PERCUTANEOUS AND IMPLANTABLE TIBIAL NERVE STIMULATION
POLICY NUMBER	MP 1.134

CLINICAL BENEFIT	<input 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:	4/1/2024

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I. POLICY

Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation for an initial 12-week course is considered **medically necessary** for individuals with non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction including overactive bladder who have both:

- Failed behavioral therapy following an appropriate duration of 8 to 12 weeks without meeting treatment goals; **and**
- Failed pharmacologic therapy following 4 to 8 weeks of treatment without meeting treatment goals (see policy guidelines).

Maintenance therapy using monthly percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation is considered **medically necessary** for individuals following a 12-week initial course of percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation that resulted in improved urinary dysfunction meeting treatment goals.

Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation is considered **investigational** for all other indications including, but not limited to, the following:

- Neurogenic bladder dysfunction; **or**
- Fecal incontinence

There is insufficient evidence to support a general conclusion concerning the health outcomes or benefits associated with this procedure for these indications.

Implantable tibial nerve stimulation 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

Behavioral therapies may be combined with pharmacologic therapies. They do not have to occur in a sequential manner.

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Annual evaluation by a physician may be performed to ensure efficacy is continuing for maintenance percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation treatments.

Cross-references:

MP 1.033 Sacral Nerve Neuromodulation/Stimulation and Pelvic Floor Stimulation Devices

MP 6.050 Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (PENS) and Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy (PNT)

MP 2.064 Biofeedback and Neurofeedback Therapy

MP 1.109 Periureteral Bulking Agents as Treatment of Vesicoureteral Reflux

MP 2.096 Electromyography (EMG) (Needle and Non-Needle) of the Anal or Urethral Sphincter

II. PRODUCT VARIATIONS

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This policy is only applicable to certain programs and products administered by Capital BlueCross and subject to benefit variations as discussed in Section VI. 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>.

III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

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Voiding Dysfunction

Common causes of non-neurogenic voiding dysfunction are pelvic floor neuromuscular changes (e.g., from pregnancy, childbirth, surgery), inflammation, medication (e.g., diuretics, anticholinergics), obesity, and psychogenic factors. Overactive bladder is a non-neurogenic voiding dysfunction characterized by urinary frequency, urgency, urge incontinence, and nonobstructive retention.

Neurogenic bladder dysfunction is caused by neurologic damage in patients with multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, detrusor hyperreflexia, or diabetes with peripheral nerve involvement. The symptoms include overflow incontinence, frequency, urgency, urge incontinence, and retention.

Treatment

Approaches to the treatment of incontinence differentiate between urge incontinence and stress incontinence. Conservative behavioral management such as lifestyle modification (e.g., dietary changes, weight reduction, fluid management, smoking cessation) along with pelvic floor exercises and bladder training are part of the initial treatment of overactive bladder symptoms and both types of incontinence. Pharmacotherapy is another option, and different medications target different symptoms. Some individuals experience mixed incontinence.

If behavioral therapies and pharmacotherapy are unsuccessful, percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS), sacral nerve stimulation, or botulinum toxin may be recommended.

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Percutaneous Tibial Nerve Stimulation

The current indication cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for PTNS is overactive bladder and associated symptoms of urinary frequency, urinary urgency, and urge incontinence.

Altering the function of the posterior tibial nerve with PTNS is believed to improve voiding function and control. The mechanism of action is believed to be retrograde stimulation of the lumbosacral nerves (L4-S3) via the posterior tibial nerve located near the ankle. The lumbosacral nerves control the bladder detrusor and perineal floor.

Administration of PTNS consists of inserting a needle above the medial malleolus into the posterior tibial nerve followed by the application of low-voltage (10 mA, 1-10 Hz frequency) electrical stimulation that produces sensory and motor responses as evidenced by a tickling sensation and plantarflexion or fanning of all toes. Noninvasive PTNS has also been delivered with transcutaneous or surface electrodes. The recommended course of treatment is an initial series of 12 weekly office-based treatments followed by an individualized maintenance treatment schedule.

PTNS is less invasive than traditional sacral nerve neuromodulation (see evidence review MP 1.033), which has been successfully used to treat urinary dysfunction but requires implantation of a permanent device. In sacral root neuromodulation, an implantable pulse generator that delivers controlled electrical impulses is attached to wire leads that connect to the sacral nerves, most commonly the S3 nerve root that modulates the neural pathways controlling bladder function.

PTNS has also been proposed as a treatment for non-neurogenic and neurogenic bladder syndromes and fecal incontinence.

Implantable Tibial Nerve Stimulation

Protect PNS Neurostimulator is a wirelessly powered, minimally invasive, microtechnology neurostimulator intended to treat overactive bladder (OAB). Protect PNS is currently being studied for the treatment of OAB and is under regulatory review for market approval by the FDA.

eCoin® is a subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (STNS) device. The current indication approved by the FDA for STNS is urgency urinary incontinence in individuals who are intolerant or who have had an inadequate response to more conservative treatments or who have undergone a successful trial of PTNS. STNS is administered through a coin-sized leadless battery-powered implant. STNS offers a less invasive alternative to traditional sacral nerve neuromodulation and offers a convenient delivery system for automated treatments without the need for chronic outpatient PTNS treatment sessions.

Regulatory Status

In 2005, the Urgent® PC Neuromodulation System was the initial PTNS device cleared for marketing by FDA through the 510(k) process to treat patients suffering from urinary urgency,

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urinary frequency, and urge incontinence. Additional percutaneous tibial nerve stimulators have been cleared for marketing through the 510(k) process. They are listed in Table 1.

The devices are not FDA-cleared for other indications, such as the treatment of fecal incontinence.

Wireless technology is evolving for the treatment of overactive bladder. In March 2022, the eCoin® Peripheral Neurostimulator System (Valencia Technologies Corporation) became the first subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation implant approved by the FDA through the premarket authorization (PMA) process for individuals with urgency urinary incontinence (P200036; FDA Product Code: QPT).

Table 1. FDA-Cleared Percutaneous Tibial Nerve Stimulators (FDA Product Code: NAM)

Device Name	Manufacturer	Cleared	510(k)	Indications
Urgent® PC Neuromodulation System	Uroplasty, now Cogentix Medical	Oct 2005	K052025	Treatment of urinary urgency, urinary frequency, and urge incontinence
Urgent® PC Neuromodulation System	Uroplasty, now Cogentix Medical	Jul 2006	K061333	FDA determined the 70% isopropyl alcohol prep pad contained in the kit is subject to regulation as a drug
Urgent® PC Neuromodulation System	Uroplasty, now Cogentix Medical	Aug 2007	K071822	Labeling update, intended use is unchanged
Urgent® PC Neuromodulation System	Uroplasty, now Cogentix Medical	Oct 2010	K101847	Intended use statement adds the diagnosis of overactive bladder
NURO™ Neuromodulation System	Advanced Uro-Solutions, now Medtronic	Nov 2013	K132561	Treatment of patients with overactive bladder and associated symptoms of urinary urgency, urinary frequency, and urge incontinence
ZIDA Wearable Neuromodulation System	Exodus Innovations	Mar 2021	K192731	Treatment of patients with an overactive bladder and associated symptoms of urinary urgency, urinary frequency, and urge incontinence

IV. RATIONALE

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SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

For individuals who have non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction including overactive bladder and have failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy who receive an initial course of PTNS, the evidence includes randomized sham-controlled trials, RCTs with an active comparator, and systematic reviews. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The SUmIT and the OrBIT trials are 2 key industry-sponsored RCTs. Systematic reviews that included these and other published trials have found short-term reductions in voiding dysfunction with PTNS. The largest, highest quality

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study was the double-blinded, sham-controlled SUMiT trial, which reported a statistically significant benefit of PTNS vs sham at 12 weeks. In an additional, small sham-controlled trial, a 50% reduction in urge incontinent episodes was attained in 71% of PTNS group compared with 0% in the sham group. The nonblinded OrBIT trial found that PTNS was noninferior to medication therapy at 12 weeks. Adverse events were limited to local irritation effects. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have overactive bladder syndrome that has failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy who respond to an initial course of PTNS who receive maintenance PTNS, the evidence includes observational studies and systematic reviews. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The SUMiT and the OrBIT trials each included extension studies that followed individuals who responded to the initial course of PTNS and continued to receive periodic maintenance therapy. There is variability in the interval between and frequency of maintenance treatments, and an optimal maintenance regimen remains unclear. There are up to 36 months of observational data available, reporting that there is a durable effect for some of these patients. While comparative data are not available after the initial 12-week treatment period, the observational data support a clinically meaningful benefit for use in individuals who have already failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy and who respond to the initial course of PTNS. PTNS may allow such individuals to avoid more invasive interventions. Adverse events appear to be limited to local irritation for both short- and long-term PTNS use. Typical regimens schedule maintenance treatments every 4-6 weeks. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction including overactive bladder and who have failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy or who have responded to an initial course of PTNS and then receive subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (STNS), the evidence includes single-arm studies. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The pivotal open-label, single-arm study leading to FDA-approval of the subcutaneously-implanted, wireless eCoin tibial nerve stimulation system demonstrated a 68% response rate at 48 weeks of follow-up which surpassed a performance goal of 40%. However, the certainty of the evidence is limited by the lack of comparator group and a lower response rate observed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the FDA noted that the performance goal was identified after patients had already been implanted. An ongoing post-approval study may elucidate the certainty of benefit, including safety of reimplantation given battery lifespan concerns. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have neurogenic bladder dysfunction who receive PTNS, the evidence includes several RCTs and a systematic review of RCTs and observational data. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. Only a few RCTs evaluating tibial nerve stimulation for treating neurogenic bladder have been published to date, and all but one performed transcutaneous stimulation rather than PTNS. Studies varied widely in factors such as study populations and

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comparator interventions. Study findings have not reported that tibial nerve stimulation significantly reduced incontinence symptoms and improved other outcomes. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who have fecal incontinence who receive PTNS, the evidence includes several RCTs and systematic reviews. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, functional outcomes, quality of life, and treatment-related morbidity. The available RCTs have not found a clear benefit of PTNS. Neither of the sham-controlled trials found that active stimulation was superior to sham for achieving the primary outcome, at least a 50% reduction in mean weekly fecal incontinence episodes. The larger sham-controlled randomized trial did find a significantly greater decrease in the absolute number of weekly incontinence episodes in the active treatment group, but the overall trial findings did not suggest the superiority of PTNS over sham treatment. A meta-analysis of a single RCT and several observational studies reported that patients receiving sacral nerve simulation experienced significant benefits compared with patients receiving PTNS. A post hoc analysis of the larger trial suggested a subset of patients with fecal incontinence (those without concomitant obstructive defecation) may benefit from PTNS. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

V. DEFINITIONS

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URGE INCONTINENCE is defined as leakage of urine when there is a strong urge to void.

URGENCY-FREQUENCY is an uncontrollable urge to urinate, resulting in very frequent, small volumes.

URINARY RETENTION is the inability to completely empty the bladder of urine

VI. BENEFIT VARIATIONS

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The existence of this medical policy does not mean that this service is a covered benefit under the member's health benefit plan. Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable health benefit plan language. Medical policies do not constitute a description of benefits. A member's health benefit plan governs which services are covered, which are excluded, which are subject to benefit limits and which require preauthorization. There are different benefit plan designs in each product administered by Capital BlueCross. Members and providers should consult the member's health benefit plan for information or contact Capital BlueCross for benefit information.

VII. DISCLAIMER

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Capital BlueCross's medical policies are developed to assist in administering a member's benefits, do not constitute medical advice and are subject to change. Treating providers are solely responsible for medical advice and treatment of members. Members should discuss any medical policy related to their coverage or condition with their provider and consult their benefit information to determine if the service is covered. If there is a discrepancy between this medical policy and a member's benefit information, the benefit information will govern. If a provider or a member has a question concerning the application of this medical policy to a specific member's

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plan of benefits, please contact Capital BlueCross' Provider Services or Member Services. Capital BlueCross considers the information contained in this medical policy to be proprietary and it may only be disseminated as permitted by law.

VIII. CODING INFORMATION

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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.

The following implantable neurostimulation devices are considered investigational; therefore, not covered:

Procedure Codes							
0587T*	0588T*	0589T*	0590T*	0816T	0817T	0818T	0819T

*These codes may be used for the Protect PNS device which has not been FDA approved

Covered when medically necessary, for treatment of non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction via percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation devices:

Procedure Codes							
64566	E0736						

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code	Description
N32.81	Overactive bladder
N39.41	Urge incontinence
N39.42	Incontinence without sensory awareness
N39.43	Post-void dribbling
N39.44	Nocturnal enuresis
N39.45	Continuous leakage
N39.46	Mixed incontinence
N39.490	Overflow incontinence
N39.491	Coital incontinence
N39.492	Postural (urinary) incontinence
N39.498	Other specified urinary incontinence
R32	Unspecified urinary incontinence
R33.0	Drug induced retention of urine

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ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code	Description
R33.8	Other retention of urine
R33.9	Retention of urine, unspecified
R35.0	Frequency of micturition
R35.81	Nocturnal polyuria
R35.89	Other polyuria
R39.14	Feeling of incomplete bladder emptying
R39.15	Urgency of urination

IX. REFERENCES

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MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY TITLE	PERCUTANEOUS AND IMPLANTABLE TIBIAL NERVE STIMULATION
POLICY NUMBER	MP 1.134

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X. POLICY HISTORY

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MP 1.034	4/17/20 Consensus review. Policy statement unchanged. Background and references updated. Coding section corrected to separate medically necessary from investigational codes.
	9/24/21 Consensus review. Policy statement unchanged. FEP language updated. References updated.
	11/22/2022 Minor review. INV statement for implantable tibial nerve stimulation. References, background, and rationale updated.
	10/9/2023 Consensus review. Updated policy guidelines, background, rationale, coding table, and references.
	12/12/23 Administrative review. Added 0816T-0819T
	3/15/2024 Administrative review. Added E0736. Effective 4/1/2024

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