VERMONT

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The Department of Vermont Health Access Medical Policy

Subject: Neuroprosthetics/Neuroorthotics (NP/NO)
Last Review: January 3, 2017
Revision 4: December 29, 2015
Revision 3: January 21, 2015
Revision 2: December 11, 2013
Revision 1: May 3, 2013
Original Effective: February 15, 2012

***Please note: Most current content changes will be highlighted in yellow.**

Description of Service or Procedure

Per Vermont Medicaid Rule 7508, "A prosthetic device is a replacement, corrective or supportive device to: 1) artificially replace a missing portion of the body; 2) prevent or correct deformity or malfunction; or 3) support a weak or deformed portion of the body. Prosthetics include orthotics." Orthotics are generally considered to fit items 2 and 3.

Neuroprosthetics/orthotics support or correct the body part, fully or partially, by the use of electrical stimulation. There may be a mechanical component as well. Some neuroprosthetics/orthotics provide electrical stimulation through surface electrodes; others may include implantable or injectable electrodes. This guideline is specifically for devices with surface electrodes.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule that pertains to the member's aid category. Prior Authorization (PA) is only valid if the member is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

Medicaid Rule

7102.2 Prior Authorization Determination

7103 Medical Necessity

Medicaid Rules can be found at http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules

Coverage Position

NP/NO may be covered for beneficiaries:

- When the device is prescribed by a licensed medical provider, enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice in accordance with the Vermont State Practice Act, who is knowledgeable in the use of NP/NO and who provides medical care to the beneficiary. AND
- When the clinical criteria below are met.

Coverage Criteria

NP/NO may be covered for a beneficiary who:

- Has a neurologically-based medical condition that results in the long term medical need for a prosthetic/orthotic to prevent or correct malfunction or support a weak or deformed portion of the body AND
- Requires the use of a prosthetic/orthotic to perform medically necessary activities of daily living AND
- Has undergone extensive trials of all other, less expensive, medically appropriate forms of prosthetic/orthotic as part of a physical or occupational therapy plan of care, and where the other prosthetics/orthotics have failed to meet the beneficiary's functional medical needs AND
- Will continue to be treated by the physical or occupational therapist after obtaining the prosthetic/orthotic to enable the beneficiary to utilize the device properly and functionally.

Clinical guidelines for repeat service or procedure

- When the device no longer meets the medical needs of the beneficiary, OR
- When the device is no longer functional through normal wear and tear (expected to be at least 5 years), OR
    - When the cost of repair is more than 50% of the cost of replacement.
    - Electrodes and batteries may be replaced as needed to allow the proper function of the NP/NO device.

Type of service or procedure covered

NP/NO devices that include electrical stimulation via surface electrodes.

Type of service or procedure not covered (this list may not be all inclusive)

- NP/NO via implanted or injected electrodes, which are considered to be investigational at this time.
- NP/NO for beneficiaries who are unable to use the NP/NO device to perform medically necessary activities of daily living such as walking functional distances.
- NP/NO for use primarily as an exercise system rather than to perform functional medically necessary activities of daily living.
- NP/NO for use primarily as a cosmetic device.
- NP/NO for individuals who are not able to maintain the device for safe, functional, long term use. Per Vermont Medicaid Rule 7508.3, the device "must be appropriate for the beneficiary's age, gross and fine motor skills, developmental status, mental functioning, and physical condition."
- Duplicate items are not covered.

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