

State of Vermont
Department of Vermont Health Access
280 State Drive, NOB 1 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

Agency of Human Services
[Phone] 802-879-5903
[Fax] 802-879-5963
www.dvha.vermont.gov

The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria

Subject: Neuroprosthetics/Neuroorthotics (NP/NO)

Last Review: November 8, 2023*

Past Revisions: August 30, 2022, February 5, 2021, September 25, 2019, January 3, 2017, December 29, 2015, January 21, 2015, December 11, 2013, May 3, 2013, February 15, 2012

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

Description of Service or Procedure

Per Vermont Health Care Administrative Rule [4.212](#), “Prosthetic devices means replacement, corrective or supportive devices to: artificially replace a missing portion of the body, prevent or correct deformity or malfunction; or support a weak or deformed portion of the body.” “Orthotic devices” means devices fashioned to support, correct, or improve the function of a body part.

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

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule or Health Care Administrative Rules that pertain 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

Medicaid and Health Care Administrative Rules can be found at <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar/adopted-rules>

- 7102.2 Prior Authorization Determination
- 4.101 Medical Necessity for Covered Services
- 4.104 Medicaid Non-Covered Services
- 4.106 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services
- 4.212 Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices
- 4.209 Durable Medical Equipment



Coverage Position

NP/NO may be covered for members:

- When the device is prescribed by a licensed medical provider, enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice as described on the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation's website*, Statute, or rule who is knowledgeable regarding NP/NO, and who provides medical care to the member AND
- When the clinical criteria below are met.

* Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Coverage Criteria

NP/NO may be covered for members who:

- Have 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 member's functional medical needs AND
- Will continue to be treated by the physical or occupational therapist after obtaining the NP/NO to enable the member to utilize the device properly and functionally.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): Vermont Medicaid will provide comprehensive services and furnish all Medicaid coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members under age 21.

Please note, Vermont Medicaid Clinical Criteria is reviewed based on available literature, evidence-based guidelines/standards, Medicaid rule and policy, and Medicare coverage determinations that may be appropriate to incorporate when applicable.

Clinical criteria for repeat service or procedure

- When the device no longer meets the medical needs of the member, 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.

See the DME limitation guidance list on the VT Medicaid Portal under Provider Resources at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/resources>.

Type of service or procedure covered

Covered services include NP/NO devices that produce electrical stimulation delivered by 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 members 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 that primarily serve to address social, recreational, or other factors and do not directly address a medical need ([HCAR 4.212.5a](#)).
- NP/NO for members who are not able to maintain the device for safe, functional, long-term use. The device must be appropriate for the member's age, gross and fine motor skills, developmental status, mental functioning, and physical condition.
- Duplicate items are not covered.
- Custom devices are covered only when prefabricated devices cannot meet the medical need ([HCAR 4.212.4e](#)).

Coding guidelines

Please see the Medicaid Portal at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/feeSchedule> for fee schedules, code coverage, and applicable requirements.

Specific codes for electrodes and batteries exist and must be used.

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