Cranial Electrostimulation Therapy (CES)

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Medicare Advantage Medical Policy manual is not intended to override the member Evidence of Coverage (EOC), which defines the insured’s benefits, nor is it intended to dictate how providers are to practice medicine. Physicians and other health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care for the individual member.

The Medicare Advantage Medical Policies are designed to provide guidance regarding the decision-making process for the coverage or non-coverage of services or procedures in accordance with the member EOC and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policies, when available. In the event of a conflict, applicable CMS policy or EOC language will take precedence over the Medicare Advantage Medical Policy. In the absence of CMS guidance for a requested service or procedure, the health plan may apply their Medical Policy Manual or MCG™ criteria, both of which are developed with an objective, evidence-based process using scientific evidence, current generally accepted standards of medical practice, and authoritative clinical practice guidelines.

Medicare and EOCs exclude from coverage, among other things, services or procedures considered to be investigational, cosmetic, or not medically necessary, and in some cases, providers may bill members for these non-covered services or procedures. Providers are encouraged to inform members in advance when they may be financially responsible for the cost of non-covered or excluded services.

DESCRIPTION

Cranial electrostimulation therapy (CES), also called cranial electrotherapy stimulation, involves passing small electrical impulses across the head, usually from electrodes placed on or near both ears. CES is proposed for use in treating a variety of chronic conditions including, but not limited to, stress, alcoholism and drug addiction, headache, cognitive dysfunction in head injured patients, psychiatric conditions, reflex sympathetic dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE POLICY CRITERIA

NOTE: This policy addresses cranial electrical stimulation that targets the brain only; electrical stimulation of peripheral nerves for the treatment of pain or other indications is addressed in separate policies (see other electrical stimulation Medicare Advantage medical policies).
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted 510(k) approval for a number of cranial electrotherapy stimulators including the following:

- Alpha-Stim® Cs (Electromedical Products, Inc)
- BR-2 Biorest (Biorest, Inc)
- Biotron18 (Biotronics Corp)
- CES Ultra ™ (Neuro-Fitness, LLC)
- Elexoma Medic (Redplane AG)
- FM 10/C (Johari Digital Healthcare, Ltd)
- HP-1 Healthpax or Nurtipax (Health Directions, Inc)
- LB-2000 (Life Balance Intl., Inc)
- LISS SBl202-B and SBl201-M (Medical Consultants Intl., Ltd)
- NET-2000 Microcurrent Stimulator (Auri-Stim Medical, Inc)
- NF-1 Mindpeace (NeuroFitness)
- NH 2002 (Life Balance Intl., Inc.)
- NTI-1000 (Neurotek, Inc)
- TESA-1 (Kalaco Scientific, Inc.)

Some cranial electrostimulation therapy (CES) devices may also be FDA approved to apply electrical stimulation to peripheral nerves [e.g., transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS)]. This policy addresses cranial electrical stimulation that targets the brain only; electrical stimulation of peripheral nerves for the treatment of pain or other indications is addressed in separate policies (see Medical Policy, see Cross References, DME-83 for an index of other electrical stimulation policies).
**REFERENCES**

None

**CODING**

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*IMPORTANT NOTE: Medicare Advantage medical policies use the most current Medicare references available at the time the policy was developed. Links to Medicare references will take viewers to external websites outside of the health plan's web control as these sites are not maintained by the health plan.*