Spinal cord stimulator

We provide coverage for this procedure for adult members who meet medical necessity criteria.

For Medicare Plus Blue members: Submit authorization requests through the e-referral system.

For BCN Advantage members:

- For dates of service **on or after June 1, 2020**, submit authorization requests to TurningPoint Healthcare Solutions, LLC. You can submit authorization requests to TurningPoint starting on May 1, 2020. See the [BCN Musculoskeletal Services](#) page for more information.

- For dates of service **before June 1, 2020**, submit authorization requests through the e-referral system.

For requests submitted through the e-referral system, the submittter will receive a prompt to complete a questionnaire to determine the appropriateness of the requested service. The questions are listed below. If all questions are answered, e-referral will either approve or pend the case. If the case pends and we cannot authorize it, we will contact the provider for additional clinical information.

Authorization is not a guarantee of payment. Payment is based on established claim edits. We will retrospectively monitor compliance with this authorization requirement.

Applicable procedure codes: *63650, *63655, *63663, *63685

*CPT codes, descriptions and two-digit numeric modifiers only are copyright 2019 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

See below for the questions you’ll encounter in the e-referral system.

Does the patient have chronic intractable pain?

Possible answers: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
Spinal cord stimulator

For Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO and BCN AdvantageSM members

Effective Feb. 2, 2020

Is this request for a trial of a temporary electrode spinal cord stimulator?

Possible answers: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Did the patient have a temporary device implanted AND the patient’s pain decreased?

Possible answers: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Have all other treatment modalities (A-D) been tried and failed to decrease the patient’s pain; OR are judged to be unsuitable or contraindicated? A. Pharmacological. B. Surgical. C. Physical therapy. D. Psychological therapies.

Possible answers: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Has the patient had careful screening, evaluation and diagnosis by a multidisciplinary team prior to implantation including BOTH a psychological and physical evaluation?

Possible answers: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A