



## Implantable Peripheral Nerve Stimulation Devices as a Treatment for Pain

### DESCRIPTION

Peripheral nerve stimulation, also referred to as PNS or PNFS, is being proposed to treat acute and chronic pain. It involves surgery that places a small electrical device (wire like electrode) next to one of the peripheral nerves or group of peripheral nerves that is located beyond the brain or spinal cord. The electrode delivers rapid electrical pulses that are felt like mild tingles. During the testing period, the electrode is connected to an external device. If the trial is successful, a generator is then placed in the individual's body. The individual is then able to control stimulation by turning the device on and off and adjusting stimulation parameters as needed.

Examples of FDA approved PNS devices include: Reactiv8 Implantable Restorative Neurostimulation, Sprint® Peripheral Nerve Stimulation System, StimRouter® PNS System and the StimQ PNS System and Nalu Neurostimulation Systems.

### POLICY

- Implantable peripheral nerve stimulation devices for the treatment of acute and chronic pain are considered ***investigational***.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Any specific products referenced in this policy are just examples and are intended for illustrative purposes only. It is not intended to be a recommendation of one product over another and is not intended to represent a complete listing of all products available. These examples are contained in the parenthetical e.g., statement.
- We develop Medical Policies to provide guidance to Members and Providers. This Medical Policy relates only to the services or supplies described in it. The existence of a Medical Policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract for the service (or supply) that is referenced in the Medical Policy. For a determination of the benefits that a member is entitled to receive under his or her health plan, the Member's health plan must be reviewed. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy and a health plan, the express terms of the health plan will govern.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Overall, there is a lack of literature evaluating long-term efficacy and adverse events associated with implantable PNS devices. Long-term data are especially important for these technologies due to being implanted in the body and in some cases permanent. Potential long-term complications include those seen with spinal cord stimulators, lead migration, lead fracture, seroma, infection and hematoma.

### SOURCES

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EFFECTIVE DATE

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