

Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulator – DME

Administrative Process

Requires prior approval.

Definitions

Neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) is the electrical stimulation of skeletal muscles through intact motor nerves to assist in the treatment of postural or movement disorders. The covered device is a two channel with two sets of leads allowing stimulation of two muscles or muscle groups. Identified by Medicare HCPC code: E0745.

Four channel NMES devices also are available, but there is not evidence that supports these as being more effective than the two channel devices. Consequently four channel NMES (HCPC code E1399) are not covered.

Coverage

Generally covered subject to the indications listed below and the following limits from your member contract:

- Durable medical equipment (DME) is limited by the following:
 - a. All covered DME items should be the acceptable standard model, considering the member's medical condition. If a member requests an additional item/part, which is safe and effective, HealthPartners may cover the cost up to the cost of the acceptable standard model.
 - b. Payment will not exceed the cost of an alternate piece of equipment or service that is effective and medically necessary. Prosthetic benefits have some variation. Please see your member contract or specific medical coverage criteria for details.
 - c. We reserve the right to determine if an item will be approved for rental vs. purchase.
- DME items will not be approved which are primarily educational in nature or for hygiene, vocation, comfort, convenience or recreation.
- DME and supplies must be obtained from or repaired by approved vendors.
- Duplicate or similar items are not covered. Requests for replacement DME when existing DME is not broken, requires a physician statement documenting a change in the covered person's physical condition, and the medical reasons for the replacement DME.

Indications that are covered

1. Neuromuscular stimulator will be covered for home use as an adjunct to physical therapy after successful trial in the clinic for the following:
 - A. Treatment of disuse atrophy where nerve supply to the muscle is intact, including brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. There may also be non-neurological reasons for disuse atrophy. Examples would be casting or splinting of a limb, contracture due to scarring of soft tissue as in burn lesions and hip replacement surgery.
 - B. Motor re-education
 - C. Decreasing spasticity, such as with cerebral palsy
 - D. Maintaining or increasing joint range of motion
2. Neuromuscular stimulator will be covered initially for rental then may be converted to a purchase after determination of a successful rental period usually not to exceed three months rental.
3. Associated supplies: electrodes and lead wires.
4. Other types of stimulator units (i.e.: H WAVE, MicroCurrent, Galvanic etc.) require case by case review.

Indications that are not covered

1. NMES is not covered for pain control. (See policy DME: TENS UNIT)
2. 4 channel NMES (HCPC code E1399) are not covered because they are not proven to be more effective than two channel devices.

Products

Consult your plan documents (Membership Contract, Summary Plan Description [SPD], Evidence of coverage [EOC] or similar plan document) to determine governing contractual provisions, including exclusions and limitations relating

to your specific plan. These guidelines apply to most, but not all, plans offered by HealthPartners. We strive to ensure that the contents of this site are correct and complete, but to verify your benefits, please check your contract or SPD, or contact Member Services. In the event of a conflict between your specific plan documents and this general information, the plan documents will govern. These coverage criteria may not apply to Medicare Products if Medicare requires different coverage. For more information regarding Medicare coverage criteria or for a copy of a Medicare coverage policy contact Member Services at 952-883-7979 or 800-233-9645.

Vendor - Specialty

- Item must be received from a contracted specialty vendor or from the contracted clinic or specialty provider.
- Specialty vendors provide only certain specific items such as compression garments, diabetes supplies, TENS units, bone stimulators and etc.

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