

Gastric Pacemakers/Gastric Electrical Stimulators

Table of Content

[Purpose](#)
[Description & Definitions](#)
[Criteria](#)
[Coding](#)
[Document History](#)
[References](#)
[Special Notes](#)
[Keywords](#)

[Effective Date](#) 6/2009
[Next Review Date](#) 9/15/2024
[Coverage Policy](#) Surgical 95
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Member-specific benefits take precedence over medical policy and benefits may vary across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for details [*](#).

Purpose:

This policy addresses Gastric Pacemakers and Gastric Electrical Stimulators.

Description & Definitions:

Gastric electrical neurostimulators (also known as Gastric Pacemakers) consist of a pair of electrode leads, a pulse generator and a programming system. The leads are implanted generally on the greater curvature of the stomach roughly 5 inches proximal to the pylorus. The leads are then connected to the pulse generator which is subcutaneously inserted in one of the upper quadrants of the abdomen. The device is then programmed externally regarding timing and degree of energy delivery. The mechanism of action of high-frequency gastric electrical neurostimulation is uncertain. It likely does NOT relate to gastric emptying. However, it has been shown to enhance slow-wave amplitude (the normal wave form associated with contractility) and propagation velocity. The device does increase the gastric volume size that can be tolerated without symptoms. There are also autonomic benefits involving sympathovagal activity as well as spinal neuron responsiveness to gastric distention.

Criteria:

Gastric Pacemakers/Gastric Electrical Stimulators are medically necessary with **All** of the following:

- Individual with **1 or more** of the following:
 - Chronic intractable nausea and vomiting secondary to severe diabetes
 - Idiopathic gastroparesis with **1 or more** of the following:
 - Individual has failed the use of all standard prokinetic and antiemetic medications
 - Individual with contraindications to the use of all standard prokinetic and antiemetic medications
- Individual with testing by standard scintigraphic imaging that reveals delayed gastric emptying of solid food

Gastric Pacemakers/Gastric Electrical Stimulators is considered **not medically necessary** for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria, to include but not limited to:

- As an initial treatment for gastroparesis

- For treatment of obesity
- For treatment of diabetes mellitus in persons without gastroparesis
- For the treatment of autonomic nervous system disorders other than gastroparesis
- Second/additional Gastric electrical stimulation
- Temporary gastric electrical stimulation
- Rumination syndrome or eating disorders
- Chronic usage of cannabinoid agents
- For the treatment of cyclic vomiting syndrome (CVC)
- Postsurgical gastroparesis (PSG)
- Percutaneous stimulation
- Weight loss

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
43647	Laparoscopy, surgical; implantation or replacement of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum
43881	Implantation or replacement of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum, open
64590	Insertion or replacement of peripheral or gastric neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling (when specified as gastric neurostimulator)

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
	None

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - approved only products only.

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2021: November
- 2019: November
- 2012: June

Reviewed Dates:

- 2023: September
- 2022: September
- 2020: October
- 2018: April
- 2017: January
- 2015: July
- 2014: July
- 2013: July
- 2011: June
- 2010: June

Effective Date:

- June 2009

References:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; UpToDate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

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<https://evidence.hayesinc.com/search?q=%257B%2522text%2522:%2522Gastric%2520Electrical%2520Stimulators%2522,%2522title%2522:null,%2522termsource%2522:%2522searchbar%2522,%2522page%2522:%2522%2522%2522page%2522:0,%2522size%2522:50%2527D,%2522type%2522:%2522all%2>

(2023). Retrieved Aug 31, 2023, from CMS: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search-results.aspx?keyword=gastric+neurostimulator&keywordType=starts&areald=all&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDC,AC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all>

(2023). Retrieved Aug 31, 2023, from DMAS: <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/>

Electrical stimulation for gastroparesis. (2022, May 31). Retrieved Aug 31, 2023, from UpToDate:

https://www.uptodate.com/contents/electrical-stimulation-for-gastroparesis?search=Gastric%20electrical%20stimulation&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~12&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#

Gastric Stimulation (Electrical) (A-0395). (2023). Retrieved Aug 31, 2023, from MCG 27th Edition:

<https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed27/index.html>

Special Notes: *

Medical policies can be highly technical and complex and are provided here for informational purposes. These medical policies are intended for use by health care professionals. The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Sentara Health Plan members should discuss the information in the medical policies with their treating health care professionals. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and these medical policies are subject to change without notice, although Sentara Health Plan will notify providers as required in advance of changes that could have a negative impact on benefits.

Services mean both medical and behavioral health (mental health) services and supplies unless We specifically tell You otherwise. We do not cover any services that are not listed in the Covered Services section unless required to be covered under state or federal laws and regulations. We do not cover any services that are not Medically Necessary. We sometimes give examples of specific services that are not covered but that does not mean that other similar services are covered. Some services are covered only if We authorize them. When We say You or Your We mean You and any of Your family members covered under the Plan. Call Member Services if You have questions.

Keywords:

Gastric electrical stimulator, gastroparesis, neurostimulator, SHP Gastric Pacemakers, SHP Surgical 95, nausea, vomiting, diabetic gastroparesis, idiopathic gastroparesis, Laparoscopy, gastric pacemaker, low-frequency/high-energy GES, High-frequency/low-energy GES (eg. Enterra Therapy), GES, Enterra stimulator, Intestinal Stimulator, Gastric Pacing, Permanent or Temporary gastric electrical stimulation, SHP Gastric Pacemakers/Gastric Electrical Stimulators