

# Vertebral Body Tethering

Table of Content	
<a href="#">Purpose</a>	
<a href="#">Description &amp; Definitions</a>	
<a href="#">Criteria</a>	
<a href="#">Coding</a>	
<a href="#">Document History</a>	
<a href="#">References</a>	
<a href="#">Special Notes</a>	
<a href="#">Keywords</a>	

<a href="#">Effective Date</a>	2/2021
<a href="#">Next Review Date</a>	10/15/2024
<a href="#">Coverage Policy</a>	Surgical 123
<a href="#">Version</a>	2

**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 the medical necessity for Vertebral Body Tethering.

## Description & Definitions:

**Vertebral Body Tethering** is a series of anchor bone screws that are connected via a cord. Tension is applied to straighten the spine.

## Criteria:

**Vertebral Body Tethering** for the treatment of scoliosis is considered **medically necessary** for **all** of the following criteria:

- Curve progression following conservative management (for example, observation, exercise therapy, or bracing); **and**
- Cobb angle 40 to 60 degrees; **and**
- Curve flexibility greater than 30%; **and**
- Skeletal immaturity, defined **1 or more**:
  - Risser grade 0 or 1; **or**
  - Sanders Maturity Scale less than or equal to 4.

**Vertebral Body Tethering** is considered **not medically necessary** for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

## Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
0656T	Vertebral body tethering, anterior; up to 7 vertebral segments
0657T	Vertebral body tethering, anterior; 8 or more vertebral segments



### 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:

Vertebral Body Tethering, SHP Surgical 123, Scoliosis, The tether, VBT, MAGEC System Phenix Growing Rod device