

# Vertebral Body Tethering

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Coverage Policy Surgical 123  
Version 2

**All requests for authorization for the services described by this medical policy will be reviewed per Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) guidelines. These services may be authorized under individual consideration for Medicaid members under the age of 21-years if the services are judged to be medically necessary to correct or ameliorate the member's condition. Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), Supplement B - EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) Manual.\*.**

### Purpose:

This policy addresses 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
22899	Unlisted procedure, spine
0656T	Vertebral body tethering, anterior; up to 7 vertebral segments
0657T	Vertebral body tethering, anterior; 8 or more vertebral segments

## Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
	None

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

## Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2023: October

Reviewed Dates:

- 2022: October

Effective Date:

- February 2021

## 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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### Special Notes: \*

This medical policy express Sentara Health Plan's determination of medically necessity of services, and they are based upon a review of currently available clinical information. These policies are used when no specific guidelines for coverage are provided by the Department of Medical Assistance Services of Virginia (DMAS). Medical Policies may be superseded by state Medicaid Plan guidelines. Medical policies are not a substitute for clinical judgment or for any prior authorization requirements of the health plan. These policies are not an explanation of benefits.

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.

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) covers services, products, or procedures for children, if those items are determined to be medically necessary to "correct or ameliorate" (make better) a defect, physical or mental illness, or condition (health problem) identified through routine medical screening or examination, regardless of whether coverage for the same service or support is an optional or limited service under the state plan. Children enrolled in the FAMIS Program are not eligible for all EPSDT treatment services. All requests for authorization for the services described by this medical policy will be reviewed per EPSDT guidelines. These services may be authorized under individual consideration for Medicaid members under the age of 21-years if the services are judged to be medically necessary to correct or ameliorate the member's condition. *Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), Supplement B - EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) Manual.*

### Keywords:

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