

Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation (e.g. Alpha-Stim, Fisher Wallace Stimulator), DME 59

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Keywords

Effective Date 03/2008

Next Review Date 1/2026

Coverage Policy DME 59

Version 7

Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy. Coverage varies across plans. Coverage varies across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for coverage details*.

Description & Definitions:

Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation is a noninvasive, battery operated device for home use that stimulates the brain with short duration, low-amp pulses of direct current via externally placed electrodes.

Criteria:

Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation is considered not medically necessary for any indication.

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2024: January
- 2022: February
- 2019: October
- 2016: April
- 2015: July, September, November
- 2014: January, April, November
- 2013: March, November
- 2012: May, August, September
- 2011: August, September

Reviewed Dates:

- 2025: January – no changes references updated
- 2023: January
- 2021: February
- 2020: February

- 2017: December
- 2015: January
- 2012: July
- 2011: July
- 2010: March
- 2009: March

Effective Date:

- March 2008

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
	None

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
0720T	Percutaneous electrical nerve field stimulation, cranial nerves, without implantation

A4596	Cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) system supplies and accessories, per month
K1002	Cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) system, includes all supplies and accessories, any type
K1016	Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator for electrical stimulation of the trigeminal nerve
K1017	Monthly supplies for use of device coded at K1016

The preceding codes are included above for informational purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Additionally, inclusion or exclusion of a treatment, procedure, or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

Special Notes:*

- Coverage: See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.
- Application to products: Policy is applicable to Sentara Health Plan Medicare products.
- Authorization requirements: Pre-certification by the Plan is required.
- Special Notes:
 - Medicare:
 - This medical policy expresses Sentara Health Plan's determination of medical necessity of services, and they are based upon a review of currently available clinical information. 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.

References:

Including but not limited to: 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:%2522Cranial%2520Electrical%2520Stimulation%2522,%2522title%2522:null,%2522termsource%2522:%2522searchbar%2522,%2522page%2522:%257B%2522page%2522:0,%2522size%2522:50%257D,%2522type%2522:%2522all%2>

SHP Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation, SHP Durable Medical Equipment 59, Alpha Stim, Fisher Wallace Stimulator, Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation, behavioral health, Liss Body Stimulator, Electrosleep Therapy, CES, cerebral electrotherapy, craniofacial electrostimulation, electric cerebral stimulation, electrosleep, electrotherapeutic sleep, transcerebral electrotherapy, transcranial electrotherapy, CES Ultra, transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), and cranial alternating current stimulation