

Vertebral Body Tethering, Surgical 123

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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 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 is considered **not medically necessary** for any indication.

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
0656T	Anterior lumbar or thoracolumbar vertebral body tethering; up to 7 vertebral segments
0657T	Anterior lumbar or thoracolumbar vertebral body tethering; 8 or more vertebral segments
0790T	Revision (eg, augmentation, division of tether), replacement, or removal of thoracolumbar or lumbar vertebral body tethering, including thoracoscopy, when performed
22836	Anterior thoracic vertebral body tethering, including thoracoscopy, when performed; up to 7 vertebral segments

22837	Anterior thoracic vertebral body tethering, including thoracoscopy, when performed; 8 or more vertebral segments
22838	Revision (eg, augmentation, division of tether), replacement, or removal of thoracic vertebral body tethering, including thoracoscopy, when performed
22899	Unlisted procedure, spine

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:

- 2024: September – review completed, no changes to criteria. References and coding updated.
- 2022: October

Effective Date:

- February 2021

References:

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<https://www.chop.edu/treatments/vertebral-body-tethering-vbt>

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Special Notes: *

This medical policy expresses Sentara Health Plan's determination of medically 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.

Keywords:

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