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

AUTH: SHP Durable Medical Equipment 59 v5 (AC)

MCG Health
Ambulatory Care
26th Edition

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Coverage

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See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.

Application to Products

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- Policy is applicable to all products.

Authorization Requirements

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Pre-certification by the Plan is required.

Description of Item or Service

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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.

Exceptions and Limitations

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There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of this service as it is not shown to improve health outcomes upon technology review.

Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- NA

Document History

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- Revised Dates:
 - 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:
 - 2023: January
 - 2021: February
 - 2020: February
 - 2017: December
 - 2015: January

- 2012: July
- 2011: July
- 2010: March
- 2009: March
- Effective Date: March 2008

Coding Information

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- CPT/HCPCS codes covered if policy criteria is met:
 - None
- CPT/HCPCS codes considered not medically necessary per this Policy:
 - CPT 0720T - Percutaneous electrical nerve field stimulation, cranial nerves, without implantation
 - HCPCS A4596 - Cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) system supplies and accessories, per month
 - HCPCS K1002 - Cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) system, includes all supplies and accessories, any type
 - HCPCS K1016 - Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator for electrical stimulation of the trigeminal nerve
 - HCPCS K1017 - Monthly supplies for use of device coded at K1016

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References used include but are not limited to the following:

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

(2022). Retrieved Dec 13, 2022, from Hayes, Inc: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/search?q=%257B%2522text%2522:%2522cranial%2520electrical%2520stimulation%2522,%2522title%2522:null,%2522termsource%2522:%2522searchbar%2522,%2522page%2522:%2527B%2522page%2522:1,%2522size%2522:50%2527D,%2522type%2522:%2522all%2>

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(2022, Aug 31). Retrieved Dec 16, 2022, from MCG: <https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed26/index.html>

Alpha-Stim - Healthcare Professionals. (2021). Retrieved Dec 18, 2022, from Alpha-Stim: <https://alpha-stim.com/healthcare-professionals/treating-mood-conditions/>

Chang, W., Tsou, Y., Chen, Y., & Hung, B. (2022, Feb 09). Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation to Improve the Physiology and Psychology Response, Response-Ability, and Sleep Efficiency in Athletes with Poor Sleep Quality. Retrieved Dec 16, 2022, from PubMed: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35206134/>

Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation. (2022). Retrieved Dec 18, 2022, from Mental Health America: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/position-statement-37-peer-support-services#:~:text=Peer%20support%20services%20are%20an,illness%20and%20substance%20abuse%20disorders.>

Electrical Stimulation for the Treatment of Pain and Muscle Rehabilitation. (2022, Nov 01). Retrieved Dec 14, 2022, from United Healthcare: <https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/searchresult.html#q=motility%20capsule&first=20&sort=relevancy>

Holtzheimer, P. (2022, Jan 20). Unipolar depression in adults: Overview of neuromodulation procedures. Retrieved Dec 13, 2022, from UpToDate: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/unipolar-depression-in-adults-overview-of-neuromodulation-procedures?search=cranial%20electrotherapy%20stimulation&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~6&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H29061874

Neurological Devices; Reclassification of Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulator Devices Intended To Treat Anxiety and/or Insomnia; Effective Date of Requirement for Premarket Approval for Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulator Devices Intended To Treat Depression. (2019, Dec 20). Retrieved Dec 16, 2022, from Food and Drug Administration: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/20/2019-27295/neurological-devices-reclassification-of-cranial-electrotherapy-stimulator-devices-intended-to-treat>

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CPT® : 0720T
HCPCS : A4596, K1002, K1016, K1017

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