

Payer Medical Policy Guide

Spinal Cord Stimulation



Important: The following links to payer medical policies regarding Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS) procedures are for informational purposes only. This guide is not necessarily a complete list of payers or related medical policies. Medical policy and criteria are updated by payer organizations periodically. Information provided below is subject to change without notice. Contact the payer directly for complete information.

Note: Covered indications and medical necessity criteria vary by payer policy. Always seek prior authorization and review the payer medical policy guidelines prior to scheduling SCS procedures.

Payer Name	Effective Date	Link to Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy
Aetna	04/24/19	http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/100_199/0194.html
Amerihealth	01/14/19	http://medpolicy.amerihealth.com/policies/mpi.nsf/f12d23cb982d59b485257bad00552d87/666aaa1b5785dabc852583820062a1ca%21OpenDocument
AvMed	07/31/14	https://www.avmed.org/documents/23406/48536/Implantable+Infusion+Pumps,+Spinal+Cord+Stimulators,+%26+Neuromusc+Stimulators.pdf/fa3afa8f-b78d-4be3-9934-45569db54e88
BCBS Alabama	05/01/18	https://providers.bcbsal.org/portal/documents/10226/1791629/Spinal%2BCord%2BStimulation/7fbae76f-696d-4098-99f1-986042511109
BCBS Anthem (CA, CO, CT, GA, IN, KT, ME, MO, NH, NV, NY, OH, VA, WI)	08/29/18	https://www.anthem.com/medicalpolicies/guidelines/gl_pw_d056827.htm
BCBS Arizona	08/29/17	https://www.azblue.com/~media/azblue/files/healthcare/resources/medical%20coverage%20guidelines/surgery/o354.pdf
BCBS Arkansas	02/01/19	http://www.arkansasbluecross.com/members/report.aspx?policyNumber=1997208
BCBS Florida	01/01/19	http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/MCG?mcgId=02-61000-05&pv=false
BCBS Hawaii HMSA	01/01/17	https://hmsa.com/portal/provider/MM.06.013_Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_010117.pdf
BCBS HCSC (IL, NM, OK, TX)	04/15/18	http://www.medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/activePolicyPage?lid=ht6gie0w&corpEntCd=IL1 Click on Active Policies and search for 'Spinal Cord Stim'
BCBS Highmark DE	01/01/19	https://www.evicare.com/-/media/files/evicare/clinical-guidelines/solution/msk--advance/healthplan/highmark/pain-and-joint/10_hmk-cmm-211_v102019_eff03012019_pub101518.pdf
BCBS Highmark PA	01/01/19	https://www.evicare.com/-/media/files/evicare/clinical-guidelines/solution/msk--advance/healthplan/
BCBS Highmark WV	01/01/19	https://www.evicare.com/-/media/files/evicare/clinical-guidelines/solution/msk--advance/healthplan/
BCBS Idaho	04/30/18	https://providers.bcidaho.com/medical-management/medical-policies/sur/mp_70125.page
BCBS Kansas	01/01/19	https://www.bcbsks.com/customerservice/providers/medicalpolicies/policies/policies/SpinalCord_DorsalRootGanglionStimulation_2019-01-01.pdf
BCBS Kansas City	10/01/18	http://medicalpolicy.bluekc.com/MedPolicyLibrary/Surgery/Standard%20Surgery/10-18_7_Spinal_Cord_and_Dorsal_Root_Ganglion_Stimulation.pdf
BCBS Louisiana	09/04/18	https://www.bcbsla.com/-/media/Medical-Policies/2017/04/27/20/09/SpinalCordStimulation.pdf
BCBS Massachusetts	06/20/18	https://www.bluecrossma.com/common/en_US/medical_policies/472%20Spinal%20Cord%20and%20Dorsal%20Root%20Ganglion%20Stimulation%20prn.pdf
BCBS Michigan	02/15/19	https://www.evicare.com/-/media/files/evicare/clinical-guidelines/solution/msk--advance/10_evicare-cmm-

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BCBS Minnesota	04/1/19	https://www.bluecrossmnonline.com/minnesota-medical-policy/external-medical-policy/minnesota-medical-policy/IV-74-006.html
BCBS Mississippi	12/21/18	https://www.bcbsms.com/medical-policy-search#/policy-detail?id=2f82d0da-1a28-4c21-ba46-5ad6f9d6dedd
BCBS Montana	04/15/18	http://www.medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/activePolicyPage?lid=ht6gie0w&corpEntCd=IL1 Click on Active Policies and search for 'Spinal Cord Stim'
BCBS Nebraska	01/23/19	https://medicalpolicy.nebraskablue.com/policy/320/1
BCBS New Jersey Horizon	01/15/19	https://services3.horizon-bcbsnj.com/hcm/MedPol2.nsf/MedicalPolicies/TKEN-6RP5D8
BCBS New York Empire	08/29/18	https://www.empireblue.com/medicalpolicies/guidelines/gl_pw_d056827.htm
BCBS New York-Excellus	12/20/18	https://www.excellusbcbs.com/wps/wcm/connect/b50f05b7-7917-4191-8dd4-76f298238710/mp+spin_cord_stim+tac+14.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=b50f05b7-7917-4191-8dd4-76f298238710
BS New York-NE	04/01/18	https://securews.bsny.com/web/content/dam/COMMON/Provider/Protocols/S/prov_prot_70125.pdf
BCBS New York-W	04/01/18	https://securews.bcbswny.com/web/content/dam/COMMON/Provider/Protocols/S/prov_prot_70125.pdf
BCBS North Carolina	10/01/18	http://www.bcbsnc.com/assets/services/public/pdfs/medicalpolicy/spinal_cord_stimulation.pdf
BCBS North Carolina-Medicare	12/20/17	http://www.bcbsnc.com/assets/services/public/pdfs/bluemedicare/medicalpolicy/electrical_stim_spinal_cord.pdf
BCBS North Dakota	09/01/17	https://bb.thor.org/BulletinBoard/ViewFile.aspx?param=Bulletins%5cBlue_Cross_Blue_Shield_ND_Non_Migrated_Medical_Policy%5cSpinal_Cord_Stimulation_(effective_Sept_1).htm
BC PA Capital	08/01/18	https://www.capbluecross.com/wps/wcm/connect/prod_nws.capblue.com29556/f5b53559-6eae-42a9-97ee-180489ddfed9/medical-policy-1-069.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mjPFmFn
BC PA Independence	01/14/19	http://medpolicy.ibx.com/policies/mpi.nsf/6eeddf656d983ec98525695e0068df68/666aaa1b5785dabc852583820062a1ca!OpenDocument&Highlight=0,SPINAL.CORD.STIMULATION
BC PA Northeastern	10/01/18	https://www.bluecrossnc.com/sites/default/files/document/attachment/services/public/pdfs/medicalpolicy/spinal_cord_stimulation.pdf
BC Premera (AK, WA)	07/01/18	https://www.premera.com/medicalpolicies/7.01.546.pdf
BCBS South Carolina	01/01/19	http://www.cam-policies.com/internet/cmpd/cmp/mdclplcy.nsf/DispContent/A4BB5C05CE571BA285257177004C002C?OpenDocument
BCBS Tennessee	11/29/18	http://www.bcbst.com/mpmanual/spinal_cord_stimulation_for_treatment_of_pain.htm
BCBS Wellmark (IA, SD)	08/01/18	http://www.wellmark.com/Provider/MedPoliciesAndAuthorizations/MedicalPolicies/policies/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.aspx
Blue Shield California	06/01/18	https://www.blueshieldca.com/bzca/bsc/public/common/PortalComponents/provider/StreamDocumentServlet?fileName=PRV_Spin_Cord_Dorsal_Gang_Stim.pdf
Blue Shield Regence (WA, ID, OR, UT)	01/01/19	http://blue.regence.com/trgmedpol/surgery/sur45.pdf
Cigna	02/15/19	https://www.evicare.com/-/media/files/evicare/provider/network-standard/cmm-211-spinal-cord-stimulators-eff-021519.pdf
Federal Employee Program (FEP) BCBS	07/15/16	https://www.fepblue.org/benefit-plans/medical-policies-and-utilization-management-guidelines/medical-policies
Health Net	05/01/18	https://www.healthnet.com/static/general/unprotected/pdfs/national/policies/SpinalCordStimulation.pdf

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Health Partners	02/01/19	https://www.healthpartners.com/public/coverage-criteria/policy.html?contentid=AENTRY_046152
Humana	08/23/18	http://apps.humana.com/tad/tad_new/Search.aspx?criteria=spinal+cord+stimulation&searchtype=freetext&policyType=both
Tricare	10/03/18	https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/SpinalCordBrainStimulation
Tufts Health Plan	04/17/19	https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/guidelines/medical-necessity-guidelines/scs-insert
Unicare	08/29/18	https://www.unicare.com/medicalpolicies/guidelines/gl_pw_d056827.htm
United Healthcare (UHC)	04/01/19	https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/policies/comm-medical-drug/implanted-electrical-stimulator-spinal-cord.pdf
United Healthcare (UHC) – Medicare	04/01/19	https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/policies/medicaid-comm-plan/implanted-electrical-stimulator-spinal-cord-cs.pdf
Wellcare	11/01/18	https://www.wellcare.com/~media/PDFs/CCG/CCG/NA_ALL_CCG_Spinal_Stimulation_eng_11_2018.aspx
Medicare – First Coast (FL, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) LCD #L36035	01/22/19	https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=36035
Medicare – Noridian JE (CA, NV, HI) LCD #L35136	10/01/17	https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35136&ver=24&DocID=L35136&bc=gAAAAABAAAA&g
Medicare- Noridian JF (AK, AZ, ID, MT, WY, ND, OR, SD, UT, and WA) LCD #L36204	11/16/18	https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=36204
Medicare – Novitas JH (AR, CO, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX, Indian HS, Veterans Affairs) LCD #L35450	01/01/19	https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35450&ver=35&Date=04%2f29%2f2019&DocID=L35450&bc=iAAAAABAAAA&g
Medicare – Novitas JL (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA) LCD #L35450	01/01/19	https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35450&ver=35&Date=04%2f29%2f2019&DocID=L35450&bc=iAAAAABAAAA&g
Medicare – Palmetto GBA (NC, SC, VA, WV) LCD #L37632	01/01/19	https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=37632&ver=10&Date=04%2f29%2f2019&DocID=L37632&bc=iAAAAABAAAA&g
Medicare National Coverage Determination NCD 160.7	08/07/95	http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=240&ncdver=1&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=All&Keyword=electrical+nerve+stim&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordSearchType=And&bc=gAAAAABAAAA&g

<http://www.bostonscientific.com/en-US/reimbursement/neuromodulation.html>

Indications for Use. The Boston Scientific Spinal Cord Stimulator Systems are indicated as an aid in the management of chronic intractable pain of the trunk and/or limbs including unilateral or bilateral pain associated with the following: failed back surgery syndrome, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) Types I and II, intractable low back pain and leg pain. Associated conditions and etiologies may be: radicular pain syndrome, radiculopathies resulting in pain secondary to failed back syndrome or herniated disc, epidural fibrosis, degenerative disc disease (herniated disc pain refractory to conservative and surgical interventions), arachnoiditis, multiple back surgeries. Contraindications, warnings, precautions, side effects. The SCS Systems are contraindicated for patients who: are unable to operate the SCS System, have failed trial stimulation by failing to receive effective pain relief, are poor surgical risks, or are pregnant. Refer to the Instructions for Use provided with the SCS System or ControlYourPain.com for potential adverse effects, warnings, and precautions prior to using this product.

Caution: U.S. Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

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