

## 2015 Reference Guide to Payer Medical Policy for 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 included herein is current as of March 1, 2015 but 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	Link to Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy
Aetna	<a href="http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/100_199/0194.html">http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/100_199/0194.html</a>
Amerihealth	<a href="http://medpolicy.amerhealth.com/policies/mpi.nsf/5ef0cff3e395df1b85257662006da832/85256aa800623d7a85257da1005bb248!OpenDocument&amp;Highlight=0,spinal,cord,stimulation">http://medpolicy.amerhealth.com/policies/mpi.nsf/5ef0cff3e395df1b85257662006da832/85256aa800623d7a85257da1005bb248!OpenDocument&amp;Highlight=0,spinal,cord,stimulation</a>
AvMed	<a href="http://www.avmed.org/pdf/unsecure/Providers/Tools/AvMed%20Coverage%20Guidelines/Guidelines%20for%20Implantable%20Infusion%20Pumps,%20Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulators%20&amp;%20Neuromuscular%20Stimulators.pdf">http://www.avmed.org/pdf/unsecure/Providers/Tools/AvMed%20Coverage%20Guidelines/Guidelines%20for%20Implantable%20Infusion%20Pumps,%20Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulators%20&amp;%20Neuromuscular%20Stimulators.pdf</a>
BCBS Alabama	<a href="https://www.bcbsal.org/providers/policies/final/328.pdf">https://www.bcbsal.org/providers/policies/final/328.pdf</a>
BCBS Anthem <sup>(1)</sup>	<a href="http://www.anthem.com/medicalpolicies/policies/mp_pw_a053357.htm">http://www.anthem.com/medicalpolicies/policies/mp_pw_a053357.htm</a>
BCBS Arizona	<a href="https://www.azblue.com/~/_media/azblue/files/healthcare/resources/medical%20coverage%20guidelines/surgery/o354.pdf">https://www.azblue.com/~/_media/azblue/files/healthcare/resources/medical%20coverage%20guidelines/surgery/o354.pdf</a>
BCBS Arkansas	<a href="http://www.arkansasbluecross.com/members/report.aspx?policyNumber=1997208">http://www.arkansasbluecross.com/members/report.aspx?policyNumber=1997208</a>
BCBS Florida	<a href="http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.main&amp;format=cfm&amp;doc=Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation">http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.main&amp;format=cfm&amp;doc=Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation</a>
BCBS Hawaii HMSA	<a href="http://www.hmsa.com/portal/provider/MM.06.013_Spinal_Cord_Stimulators_for_Pain_Management_092713.pdf">http://www.hmsa.com/portal/provider/MM.06.013_Spinal_Cord_Stimulators_for_Pain_Management_092713.pdf</a>
BCBS HCSC (IL, NM, OK, TX)	<a href="http://www.medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/activePolicyPage?lid=ht6gje0w&amp;corpEntCd=IL1">http://www.medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/activePolicyPage?lid=ht6gje0w&amp;corpEntCd=IL1</a> <i>Click on Active Policies and search for 'Spinal Cord Stim'</i>
BCBS Highmark DE	<a href="https://secure.highmark.com/ldap/medicalpolicy/delaware-commercial-medical-policy/Z-7-003.html">https://secure.highmark.com/ldap/medicalpolicy/delaware-commercial-medical-policy/Z-7-003.html</a>
BCBS Highmark PA	<a href="https://secure.highmark.com/ldap/medicalpolicy/wpa-highmark/Z-7-029.html">https://secure.highmark.com/ldap/medicalpolicy/wpa-highmark/Z-7-029.html</a>
BCBS Highmark WV	<a href="https://www.highmarkbcbswv.com/west-virginia-commercial-medical-policy/Z-7-023.html">https://www.highmarkbcbswv.com/west-virginia-commercial-medical-policy/Z-7-023.html</a>
BCBS Idaho	<a href="https://www.bcidaho.com/providers/medical_policies/sur/mp_70125.asp">https://www.bcidaho.com/providers/medical_policies/sur/mp_70125.asp</a>
BCBS Kansas	<a href="http://www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/Providers/MedicalPolicies/policies/policies/SpinalCordStimulation_2013-04-26.pdf">http://www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/Providers/MedicalPolicies/policies/policies/SpinalCordStimulation_2013-04-26.pdf</a>
BCBS Kansas City	<a href="http://medicalpolicy.bluekc.com/MedPolicyLibrary/Surgery/Standard%20Surgery/10-14_7_Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.pdf">http://medicalpolicy.bluekc.com/MedPolicyLibrary/Surgery/Standard%20Surgery/10-14_7_Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.pdf</a>
BCBS Louisiana	<a href="http://www.bcbsla.com/MedicalPolicies/0026020140820SpinalCordStimulation_12573.pdf">http://www.bcbsla.com/MedicalPolicies/0026020140820SpinalCordStimulation_12573.pdf</a>
BCBS Massachusetts	<a href="http://www.bluecrossma.com/common/en_US/medical_policies/472%20Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation%20prn.pdf">http://www.bluecrossma.com/common/en_US/medical_policies/472%20Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation%20prn.pdf</a>
BCBS Michigan	<a href="http://www.bcbsm.com/mprApp/MedicalPolicyDocument?fileId=91845">http://www.bcbsm.com/mprApp/MedicalPolicyDocument?fileId=91845</a>
BCBS Minnesota	<a href="http://notes.bluecrossmn.com/web/medpolman.nsf/8178b1c14b1e9b6b8525624f0062fe9f/b034d87c3e8905bd862567fc008127ff/\$FILE/Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation.pdf">http://notes.bluecrossmn.com/web/medpolman.nsf/8178b1c14b1e9b6b8525624f0062fe9f/b034d87c3e8905bd862567fc008127ff/\$FILE/Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation.pdf</a>

Payer Name	Link to Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy
BCBS Mississippi	<a href="http://www.bcbsms.com/index.php?q=provider-medical-policy-search.html&amp;action=viewPolicy&amp;path=policy%2Ffemed%2FSpinal%20Cord%20Stimulation.html">http://www.bcbsms.com/index.php?q=provider-medical-policy-search.html&amp;action=viewPolicy&amp;path=policy%2Ffemed%2FSpinal Cord Stimulation.html</a>
BCBS Montana	<a href="https://www.bcbsmt.com/medicalpolicies/Policies/SpinalCordStimulation.aspx">https://www.bcbsmt.com/medicalpolicies/Policies/SpinalCordStimulation.aspx</a>
BCBS Nebraska	<a href="https://medicalpolicy.nebraskablue.com/Home/ViewPolicy?PolicyNumber=I.105">https://medicalpolicy.nebraskablue.com/Home/ViewPolicy?PolicyNumber=I.105</a>
BCBS New Jersey Horizon	<a href="https://services3.horizon-bcbsnj.com/hcm/MedPol2.nsf/MedicalPolicies/TKEN-6RP5D8">https://services3.horizon-bcbsnj.com/hcm/MedPol2.nsf/MedicalPolicies/TKEN-6RP5D8</a>
BCBS New York Empire	<a href="http://www.empireblue.com/medicalpolicies/policies/mp_pw_a053357.htm">http://www.empireblue.com/medicalpolicies/policies/mp_pw_a053357.htm</a>
BCBS New York-Excellus	<a href="https://www.excellusbcbs.com/wps/wcm/connect/b50f05b7-7917-4191-8dd4-76f298238710/mp+spinal_cord_stim+tac+14.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&amp;CACHEID=b50f05b7-7917-4191-8dd4-76f298238710">https://www.excellusbcbs.com/wps/wcm/connect/b50f05b7-7917-4191-8dd4-76f298238710/mp+spinal_cord_stim+tac+14.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&amp;CACHEID=b50f05b7-7917-4191-8dd4-76f298238710</a>
BS New York-NE	<a href="https://securews.bsneny.com/web/content/dam/COMMON/Provider/Protocols/S/prov_prot_70125.pdf">https://securews.bsneny.com/web/content/dam/COMMON/Provider/Protocols/S/prov_prot_70125.pdf</a>
BCBS New York-W	<a href="https://securews.bcbswny.com/web/content/dam/COMMON/Provider/Protocols/S/prov_prot_70125.pdf">https://securews.bcbswny.com/web/content/dam/COMMON/Provider/Protocols/S/prov_prot_70125.pdf</a>
BCBS North Carolina	<a href="http://www.bcbsnc.com/assets/services/public/pdfs/medicalpolicy/spinal_cord_stimulation.pdf">http://www.bcbsnc.com/assets/services/public/pdfs/medicalpolicy/spinal_cord_stimulation.pdf</a>
BCBS North Carolina- Medicare	<a href="http://www.bcbsnc.com/assets/services/public/pdfs/bluemedicare/medicalpolicy/electrical_stim_spinal_cord.pdf">http://www.bcbsnc.com/assets/services/public/pdfs/bluemedicare/medicalpolicy/electrical_stim_spinal_cord.pdf</a>
BCBS North Dakota	<a href="https://bb.thor.org/Bulletins/Blue_Cross_Blue_Shield_ND_Medical_Policy/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_for_Pain.htm">https://bb.thor.org/Bulletins/Blue_Cross_Blue_Shield_ND_Medical_Policy/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_for_Pain.htm</a>
BC PA Capital	<a href="https://www.capbluecross.com/wps/wcm/connect/4b6d616c-8c26-4647-83dd-c715ed5bd28a/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_12-1-14.pdf?MOD=AJPERES">https://www.capbluecross.com/wps/wcm/connect/4b6d616c-8c26-4647-83dd-c715ed5bd28a/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_12-1-14.pdf?MOD=AJPERES</a>
BC PA Independence	<a href="http://medpolicy.ibx.com/policies/mpi.nsf/6eeddf656d983ec98525695e0068df68/85256aa800623d7a85257da1005bb248!OpenDocument&amp;Highlight=0,spinal,cord">http://medpolicy.ibx.com/policies/mpi.nsf/6eeddf656d983ec98525695e0068df68/85256aa800623d7a85257da1005bb248!OpenDocument&amp;Highlight=0,spinal,cord</a>
BC PA Northeastern	<a href="https://www.bcnepa.com/Providers/providerrelations/PolicyFile.ashx?id=1811">https://www.bcnepa.com/Providers/providerrelations/PolicyFile.ashx?id=1811</a>
BC Premera (AK, WA)	<a href="https://www.premera.com/medicalpolicies/CMI_003695.htm">https://www.premera.com/medicalpolicies/CMI_003695.htm</a>
BCBS Rhode Island	<a href="https://www.bcbsri.com/sites/default/files/polices/SpinalCordSimulation.pdf">https://www.bcbsri.com/sites/default/files/polices/SpinalCordSimulation.pdf</a>
BCBS South Carolina	<a href="http://www.cam-policies.com/internet/cmpd/cmp/mdclplcy.nsf/DispContent/A4BB5C05CE571BA285257177004C002C?OpenDocument">http://www.cam-policies.com/internet/cmpd/cmp/mdclplcy.nsf/DispContent/A4BB5C05CE571BA285257177004C002C?OpenDocument</a> <i>Accept disclosure statement and scroll to click on "Spinal Cord Stimulation"</i>
BCBS Tennessee	<a href="http://www.bcbst.com/mpmanual/spinal_cord_stimulation_for_treatment_of_pain.htm">http://www.bcbst.com/mpmanual/spinal_cord_stimulation_for_treatment_of_pain.htm</a>
BCBS Vermont	<a href="http://www.bcbsvt.com/wps/wcm/connect/32189109-361b-4ff5-b820-95ef538df959/Medical_Equipment_DME_Prosthetics_and_Orthotics.pdf?MOD=AJPERES">http://www.bcbsvt.com/wps/wcm/connect/32189109-361b-4ff5-b820-95ef538df959/Medical_Equipment_DME_Prosthetics_and_Orthotics.pdf?MOD=AJPERES</a>
BCBS Wellmark (IA, SD)	<a href="http://www.wellmark.com/Provider/MedPoliciesAndAuthorizations/MedicalPolicies/policies/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.aspx">http://www.wellmark.com/Provider/MedPoliciesAndAuthorizations/MedicalPolicies/policies/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.aspx</a>
BCBS Wyoming	<a href="https://bb.thor.org/Bulletins/Blue_Cross_Blue_Shield_WY_Medical_Policy/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.htm">https://bb.thor.org/Bulletins/Blue_Cross_Blue_Shield_WY_Medical_Policy/Spinal_Cord_Stimulation.htm</a>
Blue Shield California	<a href="https://www.blueshieldca.com/provider/content_assets/documents/download/public/bscpolicy/Spinal_Crd_Stim.pdf">https://www.blueshieldca.com/provider/content_assets/documents/download/public/bscpolicy/Spinal_Crd_Stim.pdf</a>
Blue Shield Regence (WA, ID, OR, UT)	<a href="http://blue.regence.com/trgmedpol/surgery/sur45.pdf">http://blue.regence.com/trgmedpol/surgery/sur45.pdf</a>
Cigna	<a href="https://cignaforhcp.cigna.com/public/content/pdf/coveragePolicies/medical/mm_0380_coveragepositio ncriteria_spinal_cord_stimulation.pdf">https://cignaforhcp.cigna.com/public/content/pdf/coveragePolicies/medical/mm_0380_coveragepositio ncriteria_spinal_cord_stimulation.pdf</a>
Federal Employee Program (FEP) - BCBS	<a href="http://www.fepblue.org/en/benefit-plans/benefit-plans-brochures-and-forms/medical-policies/">http://www.fepblue.org/en/benefit-plans/benefit-plans-brochures-and-forms/medical-policies/</a> <i>Search for "Spinal Cord Stimulation"</i>
Group Health Cooperative	<a href="http://www.ghc.org/all-sites/clinical/criteria/pdf/spinal_cord_stimulator_for_pain.pdf">http://www.ghc.org/all-sites/clinical/criteria/pdf/spinal_cord_stimulator_for_pain.pdf</a>
Harvard Pilgrim	<a href="https://www.harvardpilgrim.org/portal/page?_pageid=253,41745&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL">https://www.harvardpilgrim.org/portal/page?_pageid=253,41745&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL</a> <i>Search for "Spinal Cord Stimulation for Pain"</i>
Health Net	<a href="https://www.healthnet.com/static/general/unprotected/pdfs/national/policies/DorsalColumnStimulator_s.pdf">https://www.healthnet.com/static/general/unprotected/pdfs/national/policies/DorsalColumnStimulator_s.pdf</a>
Health Partners	<a href="http://www.healthpartners.com/public/coverage-criteria/scs/">http://www.healthpartners.com/public/coverage-criteria/scs/</a>
Humana	<a href="http://apps.humana.com/tad/tad_new/Search.aspx?searchtype=beginswith&amp;docbegin=S&amp;policyType=m edical">http://apps.humana.com/tad/tad_new/Search.aspx?searchtype=beginswith&amp;docbegin=S&amp;policyType=m edical</a> <i>Click on "Spinal Cord Stimulators"</i>

Payer Name	Link to Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy
Medica Health	<a href="https://www.medica.com/providers/policies-and-guidelines/um-policies-and-prior-authorization">https://www.medica.com/providers/policies-and-guidelines/um-policies-and-prior-authorization</a> Search for "Devices/Equipment" and "Spinal Cord Stimulation of the Dorsal Column for Treatment of Pain"
Medicare – First Coast (FL, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) LCD #DL35648	<a href="http://medicare.fcso.com/Fee_lookup/LCDDisplay.asp?id=DL35648&amp;submitcode=+Submit">http://medicare.fcso.com/Fee_lookup/LCDDisplay.asp?id=DL35648&amp;submitcode=+Submit</a> Search for LCD #DL35648
Medicare – Noridian JE (CA, NV, HI) LCD #L33489	<a href="https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/policies/lcd/active;jsessionid=1153F7DE635BBB74652955111249105B">https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/policies/lcd/active;jsessionid=1153F7DE635BBB74652955111249105B</a> Scroll to bottom of screen, click "Accept" and search for LCD #L33489
Medicare – Novitas JH (AR, CO, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX, Indian HS, Veterans Affairs) LCD #L34705	<a href="http://www.novitas-solutions.com/webcenter/portal/MedicareJH/pagebyid?contentId=00024343&amp;_adf.ctrl-state=7hznvxxcd_38&amp;_afrLoop=855968453503000#">http://www.novitas-solutions.com/webcenter/portal/MedicareJH/pagebyid?contentId=00024343&amp;_adf.ctrl-state=7hznvxxcd_38&amp;_afrLoop=855968453503000#</a> Accept disclaimer, and search "LCDs/Medical Policy" for LCD #L34705
Medicare – Novitas JL (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA) LCD #L34705	<a href="http://www.novitas-solutions.com/webcenter/portal/MedicareJL">http://www.novitas-solutions.com/webcenter/portal/MedicareJL</a> Select LCDs/Medical Policy and search for LCD #L34705
Medicare – Palmetto GBA (NC, SC, VA, WV) LCD #L32549	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=32549&amp;ContrlId=233&amp;ver=13&amp;ContrVer=1&amp;CntrctrSelected=233*1&amp;Cntrctr=233&amp;name=Palmetto+GBA+(11502%2c+MAC+-+Part+B)&amp;DocType=Active&amp;LCntrctr=233*1&amp;bc=AgACAAIAAAAAA%3d%3d&amp;">http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=32549&amp;ContrlId=233&amp;ver=13&amp;ContrVer=1&amp;CntrctrSelected=233*1&amp;Cntrctr=233&amp;name=Palmetto+GBA+(11502%2c+MAC+-+Part+B)&amp;DocType=Active&amp;LCntrctr=233*1&amp;bc=AgACAAIAAAAAA%3d%3d&amp;</a>
Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD 160.7)	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=240&amp;ncdver=1&amp;CoverageSelection=Both&amp;ArticleType=All&amp;PolicyType=Final&amp;s=All&amp;KeyWord=electrical+nerve+stim&amp;KeywordLookUp=Title&amp;KeywordSearchType=And&amp;bc=gAAAABAAAAAA%3d%3d&amp;">http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=240&amp;ncdver=1&amp;CoverageSelection=Both&amp;ArticleType=All&amp;PolicyType=Final&amp;s=All&amp;KeyWord=electrical+nerve+stim&amp;KeywordLookUp=Title&amp;KeywordSearchType=And&amp;bc=gAAAABAAAAAA%3d%3d&amp;</a>
Tricare	<a href="http://manuals.tricare.osd.mil/DisplayManualFile.aspx?Manual=TP08&amp;Change=131&amp;Type=AsOf&amp;Filename=C4S20_1.PDF&amp;highlight=xml%3dhttp%3a%2f%2fmanuals.tricare.osd.mil%2fPdfHighlighter.aspx%3fDocId%3d38345%26Index%3dD%253a%255cIndex%255cTP08%26HitCount%3d15%26hits%3d11%2b12%2b52%2b53%2b129%2b12a%2b2b6%2b2b7%2b2ce%2b30b%2b422%2b423%2b4d3%2b599%2b59a%2b">http://manuals.tricare.osd.mil/DisplayManualFile.aspx?Manual=TP08&amp;Change=131&amp;Type=AsOf&amp;Filename=C4S20_1.PDF&amp;highlight=xml%3dhttp%3a%2f%2fmanuals.tricare.osd.mil%2fPdfHighlighter.aspx%3fDocId%3d38345%26Index%3dD%253a%255cIndex%255cTP08%26HitCount%3d15%26hits%3d11%2b12%2b52%2b53%2b129%2b12a%2b2b6%2b2b7%2b2ce%2b30b%2b422%2b423%2b4d3%2b599%2b59a%2b</a>
Tufts Health Plan	<a href="http://www.tuftshealthplan.com/providers/pdf/mng/spinal_cord_stim.pdf">http://www.tuftshealthplan.com/providers/pdf/mng/spinal_cord_stim.pdf</a>
Unicare	<a href="http://www.unicare.com/medicalpolicies/policies/mp_pw_a053357.htm">http://www.unicare.com/medicalpolicies/policies/mp_pw_a053357.htm</a>
United Healthcare (UHC)	<a href="https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/Tools%20and%20Resources/Policies%20and%20Protocols/Medical%20Policies/Medical%20Policies/Implanted_Electrical_Stimulator_for_Spinal_Cord.pdf">https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/Tools%20and%20Resources/Policies%20and%20Protocols/Medical%20Policies/Medical%20Policies/Implanted_Electrical_Stimulator_for_Spinal_Cord.pdf</a>
United Healthcare (UHC) - Medicare	<a href="http://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/Tools%20and%20Resources/Policies%20and%20Protocols/UnitedHealthcare%20Medicare%20Coverage/Stimulators_ElectSpinal_UHCMA_CS.pdf">http://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/Tools%20and%20Resources/Policies%20and%20Protocols/UnitedHealthcare%20Medicare%20Coverage/Stimulators_ElectSpinal_UHCMA_CS.pdf</a>
Wellcare	<a href="http://www.wellcare.com/WCAAssets/corporate/assets/HS115_Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_Implant.pdf">http://www.wellcare.com/WCAAssets/corporate/assets/HS115_Spinal_Cord_Stimulation_Implant.pdf</a>

**Pain Management Reimbursement Hotline - Phone: (866) 287-0778 | Fax: (877) 835-2520**

**Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time**

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

**Notes:**

1. Anthem plans utilize the same SCS medical policy SURG.00060. Anthem Plans: (BCBS) CO, CT, IN, KT, ME, MS, NV, NH, OH, Parts of VA, BC of CA

Precision Plus and Precision Spectra Spinal Cord Stimulator System Indication for Use:

The PRECISION PLUS Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) System and the PRECISION SPECTRA Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) System 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, intractable low back pain, and leg pain.

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