OCCIPITAL AND TRIGEMINAL PERIPHERAL NERVE STIMULATION

- Occipital Peripheral Nerve Stimulation
- Trigeminal Peripheral Nerve Stimulation

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

Description:

Peripheral nerve stimulation (PNS) is a technique in which electrodes are placed along the course of peripheral nerves to administer a weak electrical current to control pain.

PNS of the occipital nerve and the trigeminal nerve has been investigated for the treatment of craniofacial pain related to occipital or trigeminal neuralgia and for the treatment of chronic headaches, including migraines.
MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES
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Criteria:

For peripheral subcutaneous field stimulation, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline, “Peripheral Subcutaneous Field Stimulation”.

- Occipital and/or trigeminal peripheral nerve stimulation for all indications is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome.

These indications include, but are not limited to:

- Chronic headache
- Craniofacial pain

Resources:


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Resources: (cont.)


13. Mayo Clinic. Occipital Nerve Stimulation found to be safe, effective treatment for chronic headache. 04/05/2006 2006.


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Resources: (cont.)


