

**Policy: MP146**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Sympathetic Therapy**

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**I. Policy:** Sympathetic Therapy

**II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Sympathetic Therapy

**III. Responsibility:**

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management

**IV. Required Definitions**

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

**V. Additional Definitions**

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

- a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
- b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
- c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
- d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
- e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

**Medicaid Business Segment**

Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

- (i) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
- (ii) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- (iii) The service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional

capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Sympathetic therapy is a non-invasive type of bilateral electrical stimulation of the peripheral nerves that is theorized to stimulate the sympathetic nervous system in an effort to “normalize” the autonomic nervous system and alleviate chronic pain. Unlike other forms of electrical stimulation for pain control (e.g. TENS, PENS, etc), sympathetic therapy using the Dynatron® STS™ and the Dynatron® STS™ Rx is not designed to treat local pain, but rather is purported to induce a systemic effect on sympathetic nervous system induced pain.

**EXCLUSIONS:**

The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for sympathetic therapy as a treatment for any indication because it is considered **experimental, investigational or unproven**. There is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of this treatment on health outcomes when compared to established treatments or technologies

**Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.**

**CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:** Sympathetic Therapy

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.*

- 97014 Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; electrical stimulation (unattended)
- 97032 Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; electrical stimulation (manual), each 15 minutes (constant attendance)
- E1399 Miscellaneous DME supply, accessory, and/or service

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) © American Medical Association: Chicago, IL

**LINE OF BUSINESS:**

**Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD's and NCD's will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.**

**REFERENCES:**

Sacks SM, Ernst JA. Retrospective study of sympathetic therapy for pain attenuation in 197 patients. Unpublished. Accessed on the manufacturer's website. <http://www.dynatronics.com/chronicpain/research2/>

Guido EH. Effects of sympathetic therapy on chronic pain in peripheral neuropathy subjects. Am J. Pain Mgt. January 2002;12(1):31-34.

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. Technology Assessment. Dynatron STS, April 30, 2002.

Dynatronics. Chronic Pain Products. Retrieved 8/24, 2004. <http://www.dynatronics.com/chronicpain/>

AHRQ. National Guideline Clearinghouse. LowBack. Updated April 12, 2004.

Abdi S. Complex Regional Pain. UpToDate. December 2015. Accessed April 15, 2016.

This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 8/04

**Revised:**

**Reviewed:** 9/05; 9/06; 9/07, 9/08, 9/09, 9/10, 9/11, 9/12, 5/14, 5/15, 5/16, 4/17, 4/18