

**Policy: MP202**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Interferential Stimulation**

---

### **I. Policy:** Interferential Stimulation

### **II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Interferential Stimulation

### **III. Responsibility:**

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management Department

### **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 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:** Interferential stimulation is a type of electrical stimulation that uses paired electrodes of two independent circuits carrying medium-frequency alternating currents. The electrodes are aligned on the skin so that the current flowing between each pair intersects at an underlying target. This is thought to maximize the current which permeates the tissues while reducing to a minimum unwanted stimulation of cutaneous nerves.

**EXCLUSIONS:** The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for the use of *Interferential Therapy* as a “stand alone” modality for any indication because it is considered **experimental, investigational or unproven**. Although the device is FDA approved, there is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of this modality 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:** Interferential Stimulation

*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*

64550 Application of surface (transcutaneous) neurostimulator  
97014 Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; electrical stimulation, unattended.  
S8130 INTERFERENTIAL CURRENT STIMULATOR, 2 CHANNEL  
S8131 INTERFERENTIAL CURRENT STIMULATOR, 4 CHANNEL

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 supersede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.**

#### **REFERENCES:**

Almeida TF, Roizenblatt S, Benedito-Silva AA, Tufik S. The effect of combined therapy (ultrasound and interferential current) on pain and sleep in fibromyalgia. *Pain* 2003;104:655-672.

Johnson MI, Tabasam G. A single-blinded investigation into the hypoalgesic effects of different swing patterns of interferential currents on cold-induced pain in healthy volunteers. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2003 March;84:350-357.

Walker UA, Uhl M, Weiner SM, WarnatzK, Lange-Nolde A, Dertinger H, Peter HH, Jurenz SA. Analgesic and disease modifying effects of interferential current in psoriatic arthritis. *Rheumatol Int.* 2006 Aug;26(10):904-7.

Minder PM, Noble JG, Alves-Guerreiro J, Hill ID, Lowe AS, Walsh DM, Baxter GD. Interferential therapy: lack of effect upon experimentally induced delayed onset muscle soreness. *Clin Physiol Funct Imaging.* 2002 Sep;22(5):339-47.

Winifred S. Hayes. Hayes Directory (Online) Interferential therapy for pain and bone fractures. Lansdale Pa: Winifred S. Hayes INC. Current as of April 3, 2006.

ECRI Institute Custom Hotline Response.(ONLINE). Interferential Current Therapies for Conditions other than Low-Back Pain. ECRI Institute. Current as of August 9, 2007. Accessed August 29, 2007.

Winifred S. Hayes. Hayes Directory (Online). Interferential Therapy for Pain and Bone Fractures. Winifred S. Hayes. April 28, 2008. Accessed on May 8, 2008.

Chou R, Qaseem A, Snow V et al. Diagnosis and treatment of low back pain: a joint clinical practice guideline from the American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society. *Ann Intern Med* 2007;147(7):478-91

Fuentes JP, Armijo Olivo S, Magee DJ, Gross DP. Effectiveness of interferential current therapy in the management of musculoskeletal pain: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Phys Ther.* 2010;90(9):1219-1238

Coban S, Akbal E, Koklu S, et al. Clinical trial: transcutaneous interferential electrical stimulation in individuals with irritable bowel syndrome - a prospective double-blind randomized study. *Digestion.* 2012;86(2):86-93

Koklu S, Koklu G, Ozguclu E, et al. Clinical trial: interferential electric stimulation in functional dyspepsia patients - a prospective randomized study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* May 2010;31(9):961-968

Gomes, C.A.F.P., Dibai-Filho, A.V., Moreira, W.A., Rivas, S.Q., Silva, E.D.S., & Garrido, A.C.B. Effect of adding interferential current in an exercise and manual therapy program for patients with unilateral shoulder impingement syndrome: a randomized clinical trial. *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*, DOI. 10.1016/j.jmpt.2017.09.009.

Albornoz-Cabello M, Maya-Martin J, Dominguez-Maldonado G, et al. Effect of interferential current therapy on pain perception and disability level in subjects with chronic low back pain: a randomized controlled trial. *Clin Rehabil.* Feb 2017;31(2):242-249.

Briani, RV, Ferreira, AS, Pazzinatto, MF, Pappas, E, De Oliveira Silva, D, Azevedo, FM. What interventions can improve quality of life or psychosocial factors of individuals with knee osteoarthritis? A systematic review with meta-analysis of primary outcomes from randomised controlled trials. *British journal of sports medicine.* 2018 Mar 16.

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

**Devised:** 05/2007

**Revised:** 09/08 (updated exclusion)

**Reviewed:** 9/09, 9/10, 8/11, 8/12, 8/13, 8/14; 8/15; 7/16, 7/17, 6/18, 7/19, 7/20

Geisinger Health Plan may refer collectively to health care coverage sponsors Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, unless otherwise noted. Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.