



# Geisinger Health Plan Policies and Procedure Manual

**Policy: MP214**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Iontophoresis**

**Applicable line of business:**

<b>Commercial</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>ACA</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>CHIP</b>	<b>x</b>		

**I. Policy:** Iontophoresis

**II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Iontophoresis

**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.

**Commercial**

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.

**Medicare**

Geisinger Gold Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO, and HMO D-SNP plans are offered by Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, health plans with a Medicare contract. Continued enrollment in Geisinger Gold depends on contract renewal. Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company are part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

**CHIP**

Geisinger Health Plan Kids (GHP Kids) is a Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offered by Geisinger Health Plan in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

**Medicaid**

Geisinger Health Plan Family (GHP Family) is a Medical Assistance (Medicaid) insurance program offered by Geisinger Health Plan in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization

## 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

Medically Necessary — A service, item, procedure, or level of care that is necessary for the proper treatment or management of an illness, injury, or disability is one that:

- Will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- 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:

Iontophoresis a method of transdermal local drug delivery using an electrical current. When drug and the Iontophoresis setting have the same polarity, drug molecules are forced into the skin by electrostatic repulsion.

### INDICATIONS:

Transdermal local drug delivery utilizing Iontophoresis for the treatment of musculoskeletal inflammation resulting in pain and/or edema is considered to be medically necessary only when used as part of an overall treatment protocol in **any of the following** conditions:

- Epicondylitis
- Patellofemoral syndrome
- Tendonitis (except Achilles tendonitis)
- Rotator cuff syndrome
- Plantar fasciitis

Iontophoresis for the treatment of Primary Focal hyperhidrosis is considered to be medically necessary when insured individual is unresponsive to topicals and pharmacologics (e.g. Topical chloride, anti-cholinergics, beta-blockers, benzodiazapines) (**see MP258 Hyperhidrosis**)

Iontophoresis for the administration of local anesthesia prior to a venipuncture or dermatological procedures is considered to be medically necessary for pain reduction.

### EXCLUSIONS:

The Plan does NOT provide coverage for Iontophoresis as a transdermal drug delivery technique for other medical indications because it is considered unproven.

The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for *Iontophoresis* as a "stand-alone" treatment for any indication because it is considered **unproven**. Although the currently available literature regarding the use of *Iontophoresis* is encouraging, the studies have been conducted under varying conditions and protocols, making it impossible to establish superiority in effectiveness of this technology on health outcomes when compared to established technologies or treatments.

### Medicaid Business Segment:

Any requests for services, that do not meet criteria set in the PARP, may be evaluated on a case by case basis.

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

**CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:** Iontophoresis

*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.*

**97033** Application of a modality to one or more areas; iontophoresis, each 15 minutes.

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**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:**

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

**Devised:** 03/27/08

**Revised:** 9/12 (added indications), 10/14 (added hyperhidrosis as indication), 9/19 (Updated Indication Language); 9/20 (clarify indications and exclusion); 9/21(indication clarification)

**Reviewed:** 9/11, 10/13, 10/15, 10/16, 9/17, 9/18, 9/22, 9/23, 9/24

**CMS UM Oversight Committee Approval:** 12/23; 11/8/24

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Coverage for experimental or investigational treatments, services and procedures is specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Unproven services outside of an approved clinical trial are also specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. This policy does not expand coverage to services or items specifically excluded from coverage in the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Additional information can be found in MP015 Experimental, Investigational or Unproven Services.

Prior authorization and/or pre-certification requirements for services or items may apply. Pre-certification lists may be found in the member's contract specific benefit document. Prior authorization requirements can be found at <https://www.geisinger.org/health-plan/providers/ghp-clinical-policies>

Please be advised that the use of the logos, service marks or names of Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company on a marketing, press releases or any communication piece regarding the contents of this medical policy is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of Geisinger Health Plan. Additionally, the above medical policy does not confer any endorsement by Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company regarding the medical service, medical device or medical lab test described under this medical policy.