



Geisinger Health Plan Policies and Procedure Manual

Policy: MP269

Section: Medical Benefit Policy

Subject: Elective Spinal Fusion

Applicable Lines of Business

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Commercial | X | CHIP | X |
| Medicare | X | ACA | X |
| Medicaid | X | | |

I. Policy: Elective Spinal Fusion

II. Purpose/Objective:

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Elective Spinal Fusion

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

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: Spinal fusion is a surgical procedure used to stabilize the spine by fusing together 2 or more vertebrae which eliminates motion between the vertebral sections. The procedure involves placing extra bone (bone graft) to fill the space between the vertebrae and then secured using screws, rods, plates, or metal cage. Spinal fusion can be recommended for chronic low back pain, instability, weakness, or deformity when unresponsive to other treatments.

Geisinger Health Plan requires prior authorization through Cohere for Cardiology services for members enrolled in its Commercial HMO and PPO, Medicare Advantage. GHP Family Medicaid and CHIP products. To direct the application of these services for Geisinger Health Plan members, Cohere utilizes its proprietary clinical criteria, Utilization Management decision-support tools, and evidence-based medical treatment guidelines. For more information about the services that require prior authorization, refer to <https://payerinfo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

CODING ASSOCIATED WITH: Spinal Fusion

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.

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| Arthrodesis, lateral extracavitary technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); thoracic | 22532 |
| Arthrodesis, lateral extracavitary technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); lumbar | 22533 |
| Arthrodesis, anterior transoral or extraoral technique, clivus-C1-C2 (atlas-axis), with or without excision of odontoid process | 22548 |
| Arthrodesis, anterior interbody, including disc space preparation, discectomy, osteophylectomy and decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve roots; cervical below C2 | 22551 |
| Arthrodesis, anterior interbody technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); cervical below C2 | 22554 |
| Arthrodesis, anterior interbody technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); thoracic | 22556 |
| Arthrodesis, anterior interbody technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); lumbar | 22558 |
| Arthrodesis, pre-sacral interbody technique, including disc space preparation, discectomy, with posterior instrumentation, with image guidance, includes bone graft when performed, L5-S1 interspace | 22586 |
| Arthrodesis, posterior technique, craniocervical (occiput-C2) | 22590 |
| Arthrodesis, posterior technique, atlas-axis (C1-C2) | 22595 |
| Arthrodesis, posterior or posterolateral technique, single level; cervical below C2 segment | 22600 |

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| Arthrodesis, posterior or posterolateral technique, single level; thoracic (with lateral transverse technique, when performed) | 22610 |
| Arthrodesis, posterior or posterolateral technique, single interspace; lumbar (with lateral transverse technique, when performed) | 22612 |
| Arthrodesis, posterior interbody technique, including laminectomy and/or discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression), single interspace; lumbar | 22630 |
| Arthrodesis, combined posterior or posterolateral technique with posterior interbody technique including laminectomy and/or discectomy sufficient to prepare interspace (other than for decompression), single interspace and segment; lumbar | 22633 |

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

LINE OF BUSINESS:

Eligibility and contract specific benefit 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.

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.

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

Devised: 8/12

Revised: 5/13, 7/14, 6/19 (added indication),6/20 (Remove Prior Auth); 12/20 (Transition to Health Help); 10/23 (transition to Cohere)

Reviewed: 11/13, 7/15, 7/16, 6/17, 6/18, 6/21, 6/22

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.

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.