

## **“What’s New” Medical Policy Updates December 2018**

Listed below are the recent changes made to policies within the Geisinger Health Plan Medical Policy Portfolio during the month of November that will become **effective January 15, 2018** (unless otherwise specified). The Plan uses medical policies as guidelines for coverage decisions made within the insured individuals written benefit documents. Coverage may vary by line of business and providers and members are encouraged to verify benefit questions regarding eligibility before applying the terms of the policy.

### **MP051 Vagus Nerve Stimulation – (Revised) – Added Exclusion**

#### **EXCLUSIONS:**

At this time, published, peer-reviewed, medical literature to support the long-term efficacy of this treatment for Refractory Depression is limited. The Plan currently considers the use of vagus nerve stimulation in the treatment of recurrent or chronic major depression refractory to multiple maximized antidepressant therapeutic antidepressant treatment modalities to be **experimental, investigational or unproven** and **NOT COVERED**.

The Plan considers the use of Vagus Nerve Stimulation for the treatment of all other conditions, including but not limited to treatment of obesity, heart failure, seizure types other than partial onset, etc. to be **experimental, investigational or unproven and NOT COVERED**.

The Plan considers the use of vagus nerve electrical stimulators and transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (e.g., gammaCore-S®) for the prevention of chronic migraine to be **experimental, investigational or unproven** and **NOT COVERED**

### **MP261 Aqueous Drainage Shunt – (Revised) – Added CyPass Exclusion**

**DESCRIPTION:** Aqueous drainage shunts are implantable devices that are intended to reduce intra-ocular pressure (IOP) in the anterior chamber of the eye in individuals with neovascular glaucoma or with glaucoma that has not responded to medical and conventional surgical treatments. Tube-shunt surgery is also frequently used to treat glaucoma when a person has:

- Failure of previous trabeculectomy.
- Neovascular glaucoma
- Corneal transplant

There are several devices that have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to facilitate the inflow/outflow balance of aqueous humor in the eye. Examples of devices that are FDA-approved for insertion by an external approach are Ex-PRESS™ Mini Glaucoma Shunt, CyPass System, iSTENT Trabecular Micro-Bypass, Baerveldt glaucoma drainage devices, Krupin eye valves, Molteno implants, and Ahmed Glaucoma Valve. The basic design of these devices is similar -- a silicone tube shunts aqueous humor from the anterior chamber to a fibrous capsule surrounding a synthetic plate or band positioned at the equatorial region of the globe. The capsule serves as a reservoir for aqueous drainage.

#### **EXCLUSIONS:**

The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for any aqueous drainage/shunt implants device not currently FDA-approved. These devices are considered **experimental, investigational or unproven**. The Geisinger Technology Assessment Committee determined there is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of these devices on health outcomes when compared to established treatments or technologies.

Novartis International AG / Alcon has withdrawn the CyPass Micro-Stent from the global market, effective August 29, 2018. Based on this recall, Novitas considers this procedure/device to be unsafe and therefore **NOT COVERED**.

**The following policies have been reviewed with no change to the policy section. Additional references or background information was added to support the current policy.**

MP015 Experimental/Investigational  
MP021 Dorsal Column Stimulation  
MP056 Management of Excessive Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue  
MP105 Phototherapy for SAD  
MP157 Prothrombin Time Home Testing  
MP162 Salivary Hormone Testing For Menopause and Aging  
MP164 Laser Treatment for Acne  
MP177 Sensory Integration Therapy  
MP194 Rhinophototherapy  
MP219 Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy  
MP260 Canaloplasty and Viscoanalostomy  
MP270 Ocular Photoscreening  
MP300 Digital Breast Tomosynthesis  
MP301 Sacroiliac Joint Fusion  
MP308 Wireless Pulmonary Artery Pressure Monitoring