



# Geisinger Health Plan Policies and Procedure Manual

**Policy: MP263**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD) and Percutaneous Image-guided Lumbar Decompression (PILD)**

## Applicable Lines of Business

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

**I. Policy:** Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD) and Percutaneous Image-guided Lumbar Decompression (PILD)

### II. Purpose/Objective:

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD) and Percutaneous Image-guided Lumbar Decompression (PILD)

### 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:** Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD) and Percutaneous Image-guided Lumbar Decompression (PILD) utilizes a set of specialized surgical instruments to perform percutaneous lumbar decompressive procedures for the treatment of spinal stenosis. During the percutaneous MILD procedure, the epidural space is filled with contrast medium under fluoroscopic guidance. Using a 6- gauge cannula that is clamped in place with a back plate, single-use tools are used to resect thickened ligamentum flavum and small pieces of lamina. The tissue and bone sculpting is conducted entirely under fluoroscopic guidance, with additional contrast media added throughout the procedure to aid visualization of the decompression. The process is repeated on the opposite side for bilateral decompression of the central canal.

**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:** Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD) and Percutaneous Image-guided Lumbar Decompression (PILD)

**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**

Percutaneous laminotomy/laminectomy (interlaminar approach) for decompression of neural elements, (with or without ligamentous resection, discectomy, facetectomy and/or foraminotomy), any method, under indirect image guidance (eg, fluoroscopic, CT), with or without the use of an endoscope, single or multiple levels, unilateral or bilateral; cervical or thoracic	0274T
Percutaneous laminotomy/laminectomy (interlaminar approach) for decompression of neural elements, (with or without ligamentous resection, discectomy, facetectomy and/or foraminotomy), any method, under indirect image guidance (eg, fluoroscopic, CT), with or without the use of an endoscope, single or multiple levels, unilateral or bilateral; lumbar	0275T
Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and excision of herniated intervertebral disc, and repair of annular defect with implantation of bone anchored annular closure device, including annular defect	C9757

measurement, alignment and sizing assessment,  
and image guidance; 1 interspace, lumbar

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

### **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

### **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.**

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

**Devised:** 4/12

**Revised:** 4/15 (Add CMS clinical trial coverage); 11/19 (clarify exclusion); 12/20 (Transition to Health Help);  
10/23 ( transition to Cohere)

**Reviewed:** 4/13, 4/14; 4/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/19, 11/20, 11/21, 11/22

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.