Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member’s plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member’s plan document, the member’s plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare and Minnesota Health Care Programs, this policy will apply unless those programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

Coverage Policy
Scrambler pain therapy is investigative and therefore NOT COVERED for all indications.

Note: See also related Medica coverage policies: Interferential Current Stimulation, Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy (IDET), Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy (PNT) for the Treatment of Pain, and Transcutaneous Electrical Joint Stimulation Devices.

Description
Scrambler therapy, also known as transcutaneous electrical modulation pain reprocessing or Calmare® therapy, is a multiprocessor with artificial neurons that generate synthetic action potentials that interfere with pain signal transmission by mixing "non-pain" information into the nerve fibers. This is purported to block real pain signals. The purported goal is to “scramble” the patient’s perception of pain. Therapy is performed in the outpatient setting.

The Calamare device is an example of a currently marketed apparatus. Algorithms are used to deliver patient-specific electrostimulation. The device consists of a nerve stimulator apparatus capable of simulating five artificial neurons that send out signals identified by the central nervous system as "no pain" via the application of surface electrodes on skin in the pain areas needed.

Prior Authorization
Prior authorization is not applicable. Claims for this service are subject to retrospective review and denial of coverage, as investigative services are not eligible for reimbursement.
Coding Considerations
Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT Codes
0278T - Transcutaneous electrical modulation pain reprocessing (eg, scrambler therapy), each treatment session (includes placement of electrodes)

Original Effective Date: 1/20/2020

Re-Review Date(s):

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