

# MedStar Health, Inc.

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: MP.025.MH  
Last Review Date: 11/03/2016  
Effective Date: 01/01/2017

### MP.025.MH – Vagus Nerve Stimulators

This policy applies to the following lines of business:

- ✓ MedStar Employee (Select)
- ✓ MedStar MA – DSNP – CSNP
- ✓ MedStar CareFirst PPO

MedStar Health considers Vagus Nerve Stimulators (VNS) medically necessary for the following indications:

1. Members over 12 years of age with intractable partial onset seizures who remain refractory to optimal anti-epileptic medications and/or surgical intervention

#### Limitations

1. VNS is considered experimental and investigational; and therefore it is not covered for all other indications including, but not limited to: depression, addictions, anxiety disorders, bulimia, migraines, mood disorders, and heart failure.
2. All other types of seizure disorders not indicated in this policy.
3. Members 12 years old and younger.

#### Background

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) defines VNS as a pulse generator implanted in the left chest with an electrical lead wire connected to the left vagus nerve. The pulse generator sends electrical signals to the vagus nerve and eventually to the brain. Electrical stimulation of the vagus nerve has been shown to interrupt epileptic discharges and prevent seizures. VNS is an FDA approved effective therapy for management of medically refractory partial onset seizures due to epilepsy. VNS has shown to reduce both frequency and severity of seizures in patients that are unresponsive to antiepileptic medications.

The Cyberonics VNS Therapy System was approved by the FDA in 1997 as an adjunctive therapy for reducing frequency of seizures in adults and adolescents aged 12 and over who remain refractory to antiepileptic medications and surgical interventions. VNS Therapy is continuing to be investigated as a potential treatment for anxiety disorders, Alzheimer's disease, chronic headache/migraine and bulimia.

#### Codes:

CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes

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| Code  | Description   |
|---|---|
| 64553   | Percutaneous implantation of neurostimulator electrodes, cranial nerve  |
| 64568   | Incision for implantation of cranial nerve (e.g., vagus nerve) neurostimulator electrode array and pulse generator  |
| 64569   | Revision or replacement of cranial nerve (e.g., vagus nerve) neurostimulator electrode array, including connection to existing pulse generator                  |
| 61885   | Insertion or replacement of cranial neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling, with connections to a single electrode array     |
| 61886   | Insertion or replacement of cranial neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling, with connections to two or more electrode arrays |
| 61888   | Revision or removal of cranial neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver  |
| <b>ICD-9 codes covered for 64568 and 64569</b>  |   |
| 345.01  | Generalized nonconvulsive epilepsy with intractable epilepsy  |
| 345.11  | Generalized convulsive epilepsy with intractable epilepsy   |
| 345.41  | Localization-related (focal) (partial) epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, with intractable epilepsy                                |
| 345.51  | Localization-related (focal) (partial) epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, with intractable epilepsy                                 |
| 345.91  | Epilepsy, unspecified, with intractable epilepsy  |
| <b>ICD-10 codes covered for 64568 and 64569</b> |   |
| G40.A11   | Absence epileptic syndrome, intractable, w/status epilepticus   |
| G40.A19   | Absence epileptic syndrome, intractable, w/o status epilepticus   |
| G40.111   | Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, intractable, with status epilepticus          |
| G40.119   | Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures, intractable, without status epilepticus       |

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| G40.211 | Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, intractable, with status epilepticus    |
| G40.219 | Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, intractable, without status epilepticus |
| G40.311 | Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, with status epilepticus  |
| G40.319 | Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, without status epilepticus   |
| G40.911 | Epilepsy, unspecified, intractable, with status epilepticus  |
| G40.919 | Epilepsy, unspecified, intractable, without status epilepticus   |

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### Disclaimer:

MedStar Health medical payment and prior authorization policies do not constitute medical advice and are not intended to govern or otherwise influence the practice of medicine. The policies constitute only the reimbursement and coverage guidelines of MedStar Health and its affiliated managed care entities. Coverage for services varies for individual members in accordance with the terms and conditions of applicable

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Certificates of Coverage, Summary Plan Descriptions, or contracts with governing regulatory agencies.

MedStar Health reserves the right to review and update the medical payment and prior authorization guidelines in its sole discretion. Notice of such changes, if necessary, shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of provider agreements and any applicable laws or regulations.

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