



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Provider Manual

HMO Scope of Benefits Section

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Electrical Bone Growth Stimulation

Benefit

Electrical bone growth stimulation is covered for members with specific clinical conditions.

Interpretation

Electrical bone stimulation can be performed in three ways:

- Non-Invasive: The casted fracture is placed between two coils of wire through which pulsed currents signal the release of calcium to the injured area which stimulates healing. The power source is external.
- Invasive: A device consisting of two electrodes and an electric assembly is surgically implanted in an intramuscular space and an electrode is implanted within the two pieces of bone to be joined. The power source is later removed surgically.
- Percutaneous: An external power source is used. Several electrodes are inserted through the skin and into the affected bone.

The non-invasive method is accepted medical practice for the treatment of long bone, pelvis and shoulder girdle non-union secondary to trauma meeting the following criteria:

- At least three months have passed since the date of the fracture; and
- Serial radiographs have shown no progression of healing; and
- The fracture gap is one centimeter or less; and
- The member is adequately immobilized and is able to comply with non-weight bearing.

The non-invasive method is also used to treat patient with failed spinal fusion, in which:

- The fusion has not healed six or more months after the operation and
- Serial radiographs for the preceding three months have shown no progression of healing

Either invasive or non-invasive method may be used as an adjunct to spinal fusion surgery for patient with any of these risk factors:

- One or more previous failed spinal fusion(s)
- Grade 3 or worse spondylolisthesis
- Fusion to be performed at more than one level
- Current smoking habit
- Diabetes
- Renal disease
- Alcoholism

Paid by	Professional Charges	IPA
	Inpatient and/or Outpatient Surgical Facility Charges	HMO
	Equipment Charges (rental or purchase)	HMO

Note: See related benefits interpretation on Ultrasonic Bone Stimulation