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Revised: 01/01/26

Subject: Tibial Nerve Stimulation

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| Position Statement | Billing/Coding | Reimbursement | Program Exceptions | Definitions | Related Guidelines |
| Other | References | Update | | | |

DESCRIPTION:

Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS; also known as posterior tibial nerve stimulation) is an electrical neuromodulation technique used primarily for treating voiding dysfunction. Altering the function of the posterior tibial nerve with PTNS is believed to improve voiding function and control. Administration of PTNS consists of inserting a needle above the medial malleolus into the posterior tibial nerve followed by the application of low-voltage (10 mA, 1-10 Hz frequency) electrical stimulation that produces sensory and motor responses. The recommended course of treatment is an initial series of 12 weekly office-based treatments followed by an individualized maintenance treatment schedule. PTNS has also been proposed as a treatment for non-neurogenic and neurogenic bladder syndromes and fecal incontinence.

Subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (STNS) via an implantable peripheral neurostimulator is an alternate technique for treating urgency urinary incontinence associated with overactive bladder syndrome. The current indication for subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (STNS) is urgency urinary incontinence in individuals who are intolerant or who have had an inadequate response to more conservative treatments or who have undergone a successful trial of PTNS. STNS is delivered by an implantable peripheral neurostimulator system (eg. eCoin®).

The purpose of transcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation in individuals with urge urinary incontinence and urinary urgency is to provide a treatment option that is an alternative to or an improvement on existing therapies. The current indication approved by the FDA for transcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (TTNS) (Vivally System) is for the treatment of individuals with the bladder conditions of urge urinary incontinence and urinary urgency. The device consists of a stimulator that is worn on the ankle and delivers electrical signals to the tibial nerve. This is typically an at-home treatment.

Summary and Analysis of Evidence: Individuals treated with an initial course of PTNS who have non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction including overactive bladder and have failed behavioral and

pharmacologic therapy, the evidence includes randomized sham-controlled trials, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) with an active comparator, and systematic reviews. The Sham Effectiveness in Treatment of Overactive Bladder Symptoms (SUMiT) and the Overactive Bladder Innovative Therapy (OrBIT) trials are 2 key industry-sponsored RCTs. Systematic reviews that included these and other published trials have found short-term reductions in voiding dysfunction with PTNS. The largest, highest quality study was the double-blind, sham-controlled SUMiT trial, which reported a statistically significant benefit of PTNS versus sham at 12 weeks. In an additional, small sham-controlled trial, a 50% reduction in urge incontinent episodes was attained in 71% of the PTNS group compared with 0% in the sham group. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome. For individuals who have overactive bladder syndrome that have failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy who respond to an initial course of PTNS and who receive maintenance PTNS, the evidence includes observational studies and systematic reviews. The SUMiT and OrBIT trials each included extension studies that followed individuals who responded to the initial course of PTNS and continued to receive periodic maintenance therapy. There is variability in the interval between and frequency of maintenance treatments, and an optimal maintenance regimen remains unclear. There are up to 36 months of observational data available, reporting that there is a durable effect for some of these patients. While comparative data are not available after the initial 12-week treatment period, the observational data support a clinically meaningful benefit for use in individuals who have already failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy and who respond to the initial course of PTNS. Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation may allow such individuals to avoid more invasive interventions. Adverse events appear to be limited to local irritation for both short- and long-term PTNS use. Typical regimens schedule maintenance treatments every 4-6 weeks. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome. Individuals who have non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction including overactive bladder and who have failed behavioral and pharmacologic therapy or who have responded to an initial course of PTNS and then receive STNS, the evidence includes single-arm studies. The pivotal open-label, single-arm study leading to FDA approval of the subcutaneously-implanted, wireless eCoin tibial nerve stimulation system demonstrated a 68% response rate at 48 weeks of follow-up which surpassed a performance goal of 40%. However, the certainty of the evidence is limited by the lack of comparator group and a lower response rate observed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the FDA noted that the performance goal was identified after patients had already been implanted. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome. PTNS for the treatment of neurogenic bladder dysfunction, the evidence includes several RCTs and systematic review of RCTs and observational data. Only a few RCTs evaluating tibial nerve stimulation for treating neurogenic bladder have been published to date, and all but 1 performed transcutaneous stimulation rather than PTNS. Studies varied widely in factors such as study populations and comparator interventions. Study findings have not reported that tibial nerve stimulation significantly reduced incontinence symptoms and improved other outcomes. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome. PTNS for the treatment of fecal incontinence, the evidence includes several RCTs and systematic reviews. The available RCTs have not found a clear benefit of PTNS. None of the sham-controlled trials found that active stimulation was superior to sham for achieving a reduction in mean weekly fecal incontinence episodes. The larger sham-controlled randomized trial did find a significantly greater decrease in the absolute number of weekly incontinence episodes in the active treatment group, but the overall trial findings did not suggest the superiority of PTNS over sham treatment. An additional sham-

controlled randomized trial did not identify a benefit of PTNS over sham stimulation. A meta-analysis of a single RCT and several observational studies reported that patients receiving sacral nerve stimulation experienced significant benefits compared with patients receiving PTNS. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome. For urge urinary incontinence and urinary urgency who treated with transcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation, the evidence includes RCTs and nonrandomized studies. The results of the available studies did not show a clear benefit of transcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation. One RCT showed statistically significant improvements in the primary outcome measure however, the primary outcome was a composite score of patient reported outcomes. One study showed statistically significant improvements in daily voids, incontinence episodes, and urgency episodes but minimal clinically important differences were not reported for these outcomes. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

POSITION STATEMENT:

Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS) for an initial 12-week course **meets the definition of medical necessity** for members with non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction including overactive bladder who have both:

- failed behavioral therapy following an appropriate duration of 8 to 12 weeks without meeting treatment goals; **AND**
- failed pharmacologic therapy following 4 to 8 weeks of treatment without meeting treatment goals.

Maintenance therapy using monthly PTNS **meets the definition of medical necessity** for members following a 12-week initial course of PTNS that resulted in improved urinary dysfunction meeting treatment goals.

If the member fails to improve after an initial 12-week course, continued treatment **does not meet the definition of medical necessity**.

PTNS is considered **experimental or investigational** for all other indications, including but not limited to the following:

- Neurogenic bladder dysfunction
- Fecal incontinence.

The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation delivered by an implantable peripheral neurostimulator system (e.g., eCoin) is considered **experimental or investigational** for all indications, including members with non-neurogenic urinary dysfunction and overactive bladder. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Transcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (e.g., Vivally System) is considered **experimental or investigational** for members with urge urinary incontinence and urinary urgency. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:

CPT Coding:

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| 64566 | Posterior tibial neurostimulation, percutaneous needle electrode, single treatment, includes programming |
| 0587T | Percutaneous implantation or replacement of integrated single device neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction including electrode array and receiver or pulse generator, including analysis, programming, and imaging guidance when performed, posterior tibial nerve (Investigational) |
| 0588T | Revision or removal of percutaneously placed integrated single device neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction including electrode array and receiver or pulse generator, including analysis, programming, and imaging guidance when performed, posterior tibial nerve (Investigational) |
| 0589T | Electronic analysis with simple programming of implanted integrated neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction (eg, electrode array and receiver), including contact group(s), amplitude, pulse width, frequency (Hz), on/off cycling, burst, dose lockout, patient-selectable parameters, responsive neurostimulation, detection algorithms, closed-loop parameters, and passive parameters, when performed by physician or other qualified health care professional, posterior tibial nerve, 1-3 parameters (Investigational) |
| 0590T | Electronic analysis with complex programming of implanted integrated neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction (eg, electrode array and receiver), including contact group(s), amplitude, pulse width, frequency (Hz), on/off cycling, burst, dose lockout, patients-electable parameters, responsive neurostimulation, detection algorithms, closed-loop parameters, and passive parameters, when performed by physician or other qualified health care professional, posterior tibial nerve, 4 or more parameters (Investigational) |
| 0816T | Open insertion or replacement of integrated neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction including electrode(s) (eg, array or leadless), and pulse generator or receiver, including analysis, programming, and imaging guidance, when performed, posterior tibial nerve; subcutaneous (Investigational) |
| 0818T | Revision or removal of integrated neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction, including analysis, programming, and imaging, when performed, posterior tibial nerve; subcutaneous (Investigational) |
| 0988T | Open insertion or replacement of integrated neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction including electrode(s) (eg, array or leadless), and pulse generator or receiver, including analysis, programming, and imaging guidance, when performed, posterior tibial nerve; subcutaneous and subfascial (Investigational) |
| 0989T | Revision or removal of integrated neurostimulation system for bladder dysfunction, including analysis, programming, and imaging, when performed, posterior tibial nerve; subcutaneous and subfascial (Investigational) |

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes That Support Medical Necessity:

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|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| N32.81 | Overactive bladder |
| N39.41 – N39.498 | Other specified urinary incontinence |
| R33.0 – R33.9 | Retention of urine |
| R35.0 | Frequency of micturition |
| R39.15 | Urgency of urination |

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

A total of twelve (12) treatments (one per week) will initially be approved if criteria are met. If a 12-week course results in improved urinary dysfunction meeting treatment goals an additional nine months of maintenance therapy (one per month) may be approved if there is documented continued improvement.

Code 64566 is limited to one (1) unit of service per member date of service.

Reimbursement for an initial 12-week course of PTNS and maintenance therapy using monthly PTNS will be covered only when the criteria above are met and there is documented evidence that the therapy continues to result in improved urinary dysfunction meeting treatment goals. The following information may be required documentation to support medical necessity: physician history and physical, attending physician visit notes, attending physician treatment plan, attending physician progress notes including documentation of the 12-week initial course of PTNS that resulted in improved urinary dysfunction meeting treatment goals.

LOINC Codes:

| Documentation Table | LOINC Codes | LOINC Time Frame Modifier Code | LOINC Time Frame Modifier Codes Narrative |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Physician history and physical | 28626-0 | 18805-2 | Include all data of the selected type that represents observations made six months or fewer before starting date of service for the claim |
| Attending physician visit notes | 18733-6 | 18805-2 | Include all data of the selected type that represents observations made six months or fewer before starting date of service for the claim. |
| Attending physician progress note | 18741-9 | 18805-2 | Include all data of the selected type that represents observations made six months or fewer before starting date of service for the claim. |
| Treatment plan | 18776-5 | 18805-2 | Include all data of the selected type that represents observations made six months or fewer before starting date of service for the claim |

PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS:

Federal Employee Program (FEP): Follow FEP guidelines.

State Account Organization (SAO): Follow SAO guidelines.

Medicare Advantage Products: No National Coverage Determination (NCD) and/or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) was found at the time of the last guideline reviewed date.

If this Medical Coverage Guideline contains a step therapy requirement, in compliance with Florida law 627.42393, members or providers may request a step therapy protocol exemption to this requirement if based on medical necessity. The process for requesting a protocol exemption can be found at [Coverage Protocol Exemption Request](#).

DEFINITIONS:

None applicable.

RELATED GUIDELINES:

[Injectable Bulking Agents for the Treatment of Urinary and Fecal Incontinence, 09-A9000-03](#)

[Pelvic Floor Stimulation as a Treatment of Incontinence, 01-97000-06](#)

[Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation \(PENS\), 02-61000-03](#)

[Sacral Nerve Neuromodulation/Stimulation, 02-61000-23](#)

[Transanal Radiofrequency Therapy as a Treatment of Fecal Incontinence, 01-91000-07](#)

[Transvaginal Radiofrequency Bladder Neck Suspension and Transurethral Radiofrequency Tissue Remodeling for Urinary Stress Incontinence, 02-50000-16](#)

OTHER:

None applicable.

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COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Medical Coverage Guideline (MCG) was approved by the Florida Blue Medical Policy and Coverage Committee on 10/23/25.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

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| 05/15/08 | New Medical Coverage Guideline. |
| 05/15/09 | Annual review: position statement maintained and references updated. |
| 04/15/10 | Annual review: position statement maintained; Medicare Advantage program exception and references updated. |
| 01/01/11 | Annual HCPCS coding update. Added 64566. |
| 03/15/11 | Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated. |
| 06/15/12 | Annual review; position statement maintained, Program Exceptions section and references updated. |
| 07/15/13 | Annual review; position statement maintained, description section and references updated. |
| 05/15/14 | Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated. |
| 03/15/15 | Annual review; description section, position statement, title, and references updated. |
| 11/01/15 | Revision: ICD-9 Codes deleted. |
| 06/15/18 | Revision; position statements, description, coding, and references updated. |
| 10/15/19 | Review; position statements maintained; description section and references updated. |
| 01/01/20 | Annual CPT/HCPCS coding update. Added codes 0587T-0590T. |
| 10/15/20 | Review; position statements maintained and references updated. |
| 11/15/21 | Review: Position statements maintained; references updated. |
| 08/21/23 | Update to Program Exceptions section. |
| 11/15/23 | Review: Subcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation statement added; title and references updated. |
| 01/01/24 | Annual CPT/HCPCS coding update. Codes 0816T, 0818T added; codes 0587T-0590T revised. |
| 11/15/24 | Review: Position statements maintained; description and references updated. |
| 11/15/25 | Annual review: Transcutaneous tibial nerve stimulation position statement added; policy title, description, and references updated. |
| 01/01/26 | Annual CPT/HCPCS Coding Update. Codes 0988T, 0989T added. |