MEDICAL POLICY

Auricular Electrostimulation
(Medicare Only)

Effective Date: 4/1/2020

Section: MED
Policy No: 435

Medical Policy Committee Approved Date: 3/2020

See Policy CPT/HCPCS CODE section below for any prior authorization requirements

SCOPE:

Providence Health Plan, Providence Health Assurance, Providence Plan Partners, and Ayin Health Solutions as applicable (referred to individually as “Company” and collectively as “Companies”).

APPLIES TO:

Medicare Only

MEDICARE POLICY CRITERIA

The following Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) guidelines should be utilized for medical necessity coverage determinations. Click the link provided in the table below to access applicable medical necessity criteria. All listed guidelines apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Medicare Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auricular Electrostimulation</td>
<td>These devices provide a variant of acupuncture known as “electro acupuncture”. According to the following NCDs, Medicare does not cover all forms of acupuncture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Acupuncture (30.3)¹</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Acupuncture for Fibromyalgia (30.3.1)²</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Acupuncture for Osteoarthritis (30.3.2)³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BILLING GUIDELINES

The HCPCS S8930 code is the only code that may be used to bill auricular electrostimulation.
CPT codes 97813 or 97814 are not specific to auricular electrostimulation, therefore, if they are billed for this service they will be denied.

**CPT/HCPCS CODES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S8930</td>
<td>Electrical stimulation of auricular acupuncture points; each 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with the patient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

Company Medical Policies serve as guidance for the administration of plan benefits. Medical policies do not constitute medical advice nor a guarantee of coverage. Company Medical Policies are reviewed annually and are based upon published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that are available as of the last policy update. The Companies reserve the right to determine the application of Medical Policies and make revisions to Medical Policies at any time. Providers will be given at least 60-days notice of policy changes that are restrictive in nature.

The scope and availability of all plan benefits are determined in accordance with the applicable coverage agreement. Any conflict or variance between the terms of the coverage agreement and Company Medical Policy will be resolved in favor of the coverage agreement.

**REGULATORY STATUS**

Mental Health Parity Statement

Coverage decisions are made on the basis of individualized determinations of medical necessity and the experimental or investigational character of the treatment in the individual case.

**REFERENCES**
