

DRAFT Medical Coverage Policy | Occipital Nerve Stimulation



EFFECTIVE DATE: 04|01|2011
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 00|00|2013

OVERVIEW

Occipital nerve stimulation (ONS) delivers a small electrical charge to the occipital nerve in an attempt to prevent migraines and other headaches in patients who have not responded to medications.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not Applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial

Occipital nerve stimulation has not received clearance by the FDA, and is **not medically necessary** as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature that demonstrates that the procedure is effective..

MEDICAL CRITERIA

None.

BACKGROUND

The ONS device consists of a subcutaneously implanted pulse generator (in the chest wall or abdomen) attached to extension leads that are tunneled to join electrodes placed across one or both occipital nerves at the base of the skull. Continuous or intermittent stimulation may be used.

Literature to date consists primarily of small case series, with only one randomized feasibility study and two small crossover studies identified. Randomized controlled trials (to account for potential placebo effect) with greater numbers of patients and longer follow-up are needed. The available evidence is insufficient to permit conclusions concerning the impact of ONS on net health outcome. In addition, as of October 2012, no implanted occipital nerve stimulators have received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. Therefore, ONS is considered not medically necessary as there is no proven efficacy.

Occipital nerve stimulation uses implanted electrodes to deliver small amounts of an electrical charge to the occipital nerve. The surgeon implants a small device near the occipital nerve, at the base of the skull. Wires (under the skin) connect this device to a pacemaker (also under the skin). The pacemaker is usually located under the clavicle, in the lower back, or in the lower abdomen. The electrical signals may be sent on a steady or intermittent basis.

While early research indicates that this may reduce headaches, no long-term results are currently available. At this time occipital nerve stimulation has not received clearance by the FDA, and is **not medically necessary** as there is insufficient peer-reviewed scientific literature that demonstrates that the procedure is effective..

COVERAGE

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or Benefit Booklet for applicable not medically necessary benefits/coverage.

CODING

BlueCHIP for Medicare and Commercial:

When filed with one of the ~~not medically necessary~~ diagnosis codes listed below, occipital nerve stimulation is considered **not medically necessary**.

64553

64573

When filed in conjunction with CPT codes 64553 and 64573, the following codes are **not medically necessary** if filed with one of the ~~not medically necessary~~ diagnosis codes listed below:

95970

95974

L8680 Implantable neurostimulator electrode, each

L8681 Patient programmer (external) for use with implantable programmable neurostimulator pulse generator

L8682 Implantable neurostimulator radiofrequency receiver

L8683 Radiofrequency transmitter (external) for use with implantable neurostimulator radiofrequency receiver

L8685 Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, single array, rechargeable, includes extension

L8686 Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, single array, non-rechargeable, includes extension

L8687 Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, dual array, rechargeable, includes extension

L8688 Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, dual array, non-rechargeable, includes extension

L8689 External recharging system for battery (internal) for use with implantable neurostimulator

The following **ICD-9-CM** diagnosis codes are **not medically necessary** for the treatment of occipital nerve stimulation:

339.0 Cluster headaches and other trigeminal autonomic cephalgias TACS

339.00 Cluster headache syndrome, unspecified (Ciliary neuralgia, Cluster headache NOS, Histamine cephalgia, Lower half migraine, Migrainous neuralgia)

339.01 Episodic cluster headache

339.02 Chronic cluster headache

339.03 Episodic paroxysmal hemicrania (Paroxysmal hemicrania NOS)

339.04 Chronic paroxysmal hemicrania

339.05 Short lasting unilateral neuralgiform headache with conjunctival injection and tearing (SUNCT)

339.09 Other trigeminal autonomic cephalgias

339.1 Tension type headache

339.10 Tension type headache, unspecified

339.11 Episodic tension type headache

339.12 Chronic tension type headache

339.2 Post-traumatic headache

339.20 Post-traumatic headache, unspecified

339.21 Acute post-traumatic headache

339.22 Chronic post-traumatic headache

339.3 Drug induced headache, not elsewhere classified (Medication overuse headache, Rebound headache)

339.4 Complicated headache syndromes

339.41 Hemicrania continua

339.42 New daily persistent headache

339.43 Primary thunderclap headache

339.44 Other complicated headache syndrome

339.8 Other specified headache syndromes

339.81 Hypnic headache

- 339.82 Headache associated with sexual activity (Orgasmic headache, Preorgasmic headache)
- 339.83 Primary cough headache
- 339.84 Primary exertional headache
- 339.85 Primary stabbing headache
- 339.89 Other specified headache syndromes
- 346.02 Migraine with aura, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.03 Migraine with aura, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status
- 346.12 Migraine without aura, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.13 Migraine without aura, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.22 Variants of migraine, not elsewhere classified, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.23 Variants of migraine, not elsewhere classified, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.3 Hemiplegic migraine (Familial migraine, Sporadic migraine)
- 346.30 Hemiplegic migraine, without mention of intractable migraine without mention of status migrainosus
- 346.31 Hemiplegic migraine, with intractable migraine, so stated, without mention of status migrainosus
- 346.32 Hemiplegic migraine, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.33 Hemiplegic migraine, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.50 Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, without mention of intractable migraine without mention of status migrainosus
- 346.51 Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, with intractable migraine, so stated, without mention of status migrainosus
- 346.52 Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.53 Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.60 Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, without mention of intractable migraine without mention of status migrainosus
- 346.61 Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, with intractable migraine, so stated, without mention of status migrainosus
- 346.62 Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.63 Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.73 Chronic migraine without aura, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.82 Other forms of migraine, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.83 Other forms of migraine, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 346.92 Migraine, unspecified, without mention of intractable migraine with status migrainosus
- 346.93 Migraine, unspecified, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus
- 723.2 Cervicocranial syndrome (Barre-Lieou syndrome, Posterior cervical sympathetic syndrome)
- 723.8 Other syndromes affecting cervical region (Cervical syndrome NEC, Klippel's disease, Occipital neuralgia)
- 784.0 Headache (Facial pain, Pain in head NOS)

ICD-10-CM Codes:

- G43.001 Migraine without aura, not intractable, with status migrainosus
- G43.011 Migraine without aura, intractable, with status migrainosus
- G43.101 Migraine with aura, not intractable, with status migrainosus
- G43.111 Migraine with aura, intractable, with status migrainosus
- G43.401 Hemiplegic migraine, not intractable, with status migrainosus

G43.409	Hemiplegic migraine, not intractable, without status migrainosus
G43.411	Hemiplegic migraine, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.419	Hemiplegic migraine, intractable, without status migrainosus
G43.501	Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.509	Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, not intractable, without status migrainosus
G43.511	Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.519	Persistent migraine aura without cerebral infarction, intractable, without status migrainosus
G43.601	Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.609	Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, not intractable, without status migrainosus
G43.611	Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.619	Persistent migraine aura with cerebral infarction, intractable, without status migrainosus
G43.711	Chronic migraine without aura, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.801	Other migraine, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.811	Other migraine, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.901	Migraine, unspecified, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.911	Migraine, unspecified, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.A01	Cyclical vomiting, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.A11	Cyclical vomiting, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.B01	Ophthalmoplegic migraine, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.B11	Ophthalmoplegic migraine, intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.C01	Periodic headache syndromes in child or adult, not intractable, with status migrainosus
G43.C11	Periodic headache syndromes in child or adult, intractable, with status migrainosus
G44.001	Cluster headache syndrome, unspecified, intractable
G44.009	Cluster headache syndrome, unspecified, not intractable
G44.011	Episodic cluster headache, intractable
G44.019	Episodic cluster headache, not intractable
G44.021	Chronic cluster headache, intractable
G44.029	Chronic cluster headache, not intractable
G44.031	Episodic paroxysmal hemicrania, intractable
G44.039	Episodic paroxysmal hemicrania, not intractable
G44.041	Chronic paroxysmal hemicrania, intractable
G44.049	Chronic paroxysmal hemicrania, not intractable
G44.051	Short lasting unilateral neuralgiform headache with conjunctival injection and tearing (SUNCT), intractable
G44.059	Short lasting unilateral neuralgiform headache with conjunctival injection and tearing (SUNCT), not intractable
G44.091	Other trigeminal autonomic cephalgias (TAC), intractable
G44.099	Other trigeminal autonomic cephalgias (TAC), not intractable
G44.1	Vascular headache, not elsewhere classified
G44.10	Vascular headache, not elsewhere classified, not intractable
G44.11	Vascular headache, not elsewhere classified, intractable
G44.201	Tension-type headache, unspecified, intractable
G44.209	Tension-type headache, unspecified, not intractable
G44.211	Episodic tension-type headache, intractable
G44.219	Episodic tension-type headache, not intractable
G44.221	Chronic tension-type headache, intractable
G44.229	Chronic tension-type headache, not intractable
G44.301	Post-traumatic headache, unspecified, intractable
G44.309	Post-traumatic headache, unspecified, not intractable
G44.311	Acute post-traumatic headache, intractable
G44.319	Acute post-traumatic headache, not intractable

G44.321	Chronic post-traumatic headache, intractable
G44.329	Chronic post-traumatic headache, not intractable
G44.40	Drug-induced headache, not elsewhere classified, not intractable
G44.41	Drug-induced headache, not elsewhere classified, intractable
G44.51	Hemicrania continua
G44.52	New daily persistent headache (NDPH)
G44.53	Primary thunderclap headache
G44.59	Other complicated headache syndrome
G44.81	Hypnic headache
G44.82	Headache associated with sexual activity
G44.83	Primary cough headache
G44.84	Primary exertional headache
G44.85	Primary stabbing headache
G44.89	Other headache syndrome
M53.0	Cervicocranial syndrome
M53.81	Other specified dorsopathies, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M53.82	Other specified dorsopathies, cervical region
M53.83	Other specified dorsopathies, cervicothoracic region
M54.81	Occipital neuralgia
R51	Headache

RELATED POLICIES

None.

PUBLISHED

Provider Update	2013
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REFERENCES

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