Transcutaneous Electrical Acupoint Stimulation (TEAS)

For any item to be covered by The Health Plan, it must:

1. Be eligible for a defined Medicare or The Health Plan benefit category
2. Be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member
3. Meet all other applicable Medicare and/or The Health Plan statutory and regulatory requirements

For the items addressed in this medical policy, the criteria for "reasonable and necessary" are defined by the following indications and limitations of coverage and/or medical necessity. Please refer to individual product lines certificates of coverage for possible exclusions of benefit.

For an item to be covered by The Health Plan, the supplier must receive a written, signed, and dated order before a claim is submitted to The Health Plan. If the supplier bills for an item addressed in this policy without first receiving the completed order, the item will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Suppliers are to follow The Health Plan requirements for precertification, as applicable.

TEAS requires precertification. Requires a face-to-face with physician.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS National Determination Policy</th>
<th>Medicare FFS Compliance Programs/Face-to-Face Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DME Region LCD Covers</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision/Review Effective Date</td>
<td>For service performed on or after 01/01/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review/Revised: 07/01/17, 09/01/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Health Plan</td>
<td><strong>Medicare and Commercial:</strong> Will follow The Health Plan policy with Medicare’s Face-to-Face requirement unless otherwise indicated in a contractual agreement or benefit plan document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Medicaid:</strong> Follows WV Medicaid and remains not covered for this line of business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION**

It is believed that stimulation of the P6 acupoint minimizes nausea and vomiting, and has been used to prevent and treat nausea, and vomiting in various situations. The manufacturer of relief band refers to it as transdermal neuromodulation (1). The relief band is a watch like device worn on the ventral side of the wrist. The device emits a low-level electrical current across two small electrodes on its underside, stimulating the median nerve. The PrimaBella also emits gentle pulses which are transmitted through the median nerve on the underside of the wrist and travel to the emetic center in the brain. These gentle pulses regulate the nausea signaling process between the brain and stomach, restoring normal
stomach rhythm and providing relief of nausea and vomiting (2). The device can be turned on and off according to symptoms.

**COVERAGE GUIDELINES**

TEAS device such as the prescription versions of the relief band and PrimaBella™ are covered for the treatment of hyperemesis gravidarum that is unresponsive to conservative medical treatment such as a change in diet, ginger capsules, or vitamin B6.

Prescription version TEAS devices are also covered for treatment of post-operative nausea and chemotherapy induced nausea that is unresponsive to antiemetics or other therapies.

A face-to-face with the ordering physician is required.

**NONCOVERAGE STATEMENT**

Transcutaneous electrical acupoint stimulation is not covered for West Virginia Medicaid members.

Over the counter and/or disposable versions of these devices are not covered.

TEAS devices are not covered for treatment of motion sickness as efficacy has not been established in the peer reviewed literature. Also, most of the items used for this indication are disposable and can be obtained over-the-counter; therefore, they do not meet the Medicare or The Health Plan definition of DME.

**CODING INFORMATION**

CPT/HCPCS codes: The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage.

**HCPCS MODIFIERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EY</td>
<td>NO PHYSICIAN OR OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ORDER FOR THIS ITEM OR SERVICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>WAIVER OF LIABILITY STATEMENT ISSUED AS REQUIRED BY PAYOR POLICY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GZ</td>
<td>ITEM OR SERVICE EXPECTED TO BE DENIED AS NOT REASONABLE AND NECESSARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KX</td>
<td>REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THE MEDICAL POLICY HAVE BEEN MET</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HCPCS CODES COVERED IF COVERAGE GUIDELINES ARE MET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E0765</td>
<td>FDA APPROVED NERVE STIMULATOR, WITH REPLACEMENT BATTERIES, FOR TREATMENT OF NAUSEA AND VOMITING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The presence of an ICD-10 code in this section is not sufficient by itself to assure coverage. Refer to coverage and billing guidelines and documentation requirements for information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K91.0</td>
<td>VOMITING FOLLOWING GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O21.0-O21.9</td>
<td>EXCESSIVE VOMITING IN PREGNANCY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSCUTANEOUS ELECTRICAL ACUPOINT STIMULATION (TEAS)

| ICD-10 CODES NOT COVERED AS MEETING COVERAGE GUIDELINES |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| R11.2-R11.12    | NAUSEA AND VOMITING |
| T45.1X5,T45.1XA,T45.1X5D,T45.1X5S | ADVERSE EFFECT OF ANTINEOPLASTIC AND IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS |
| Z51.11-Z51.12   | ENCOUNTER FOR ANTINEOPLASTIC CHEMOTHERAPY AND IMMUNOTHERAPY |

**The diagnoses and ICD-10 codes may or may not indicate medical necessity are listed above.**

**DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

For the purposes of this policy, it is expected that the medical record will support the need for the care provided. It is generally understood that the medical record includes the physician's office records, hospital records, nursing home records, home health agency records, records from other healthcare professionals and test reports.

This documentation must be available upon request.

Medicare has made changes to its requirements for dispensing orders, detailed written orders, and proof of delivery. The Health Plan will require the following:

1. **Physician detailed written order.** Order must include the following:
   a. Member’s name
   b. Date
   c. Order must include any specific feature of the base code and every addition requested. The medical record must contain the information that supports the request for each item, and must be submitted with the precertification, if the item requires precertification, or with the claim if no precertification was required
   d. Order must include diagnosis code
   e. Physician signature with date. Date stamps are not appropriate

2. **There must be documentation in the supplier’s records to support the medical necessity for the device.** Current symptoms: frequency, severity alleviating and aggravating factors, etc. Therapies tried and failed. This information must be available upon request per The Health Plan policy.

3. **Proof of delivery to be kept on file by the provider of the item.**

   **Note:** If templates or forms are submitted, (i.e., A Medicare Certificate of Medical Necessity, and/or a provider created form), and all of the required information is not included, The Health Plan reserves the right to request the medical record, that may include, but not limited to, the physician office notes, hospital and nursing facility records, home health records.

   **Note:** Template provider forms, prescriptions, and attestation letters are not considered part of the medical record, even if signed by the ordering physician.
**TEAS SYSTEM PROVIDED WHILE MEMBER IN A PART A COVERED STAY**

Reimbursement for TEAS provided to a member while the member is covered in a Part A facility is based on specific contract information with the individual facility, and whether or not the device is intended for use while the member is in the facility.

**BILLING GUIDELINES**

The Health Plan will reimburse as a purchase item, if all the coverage criteria are met, based on review of the submitted documentation.

**KX, GA, and GZ MODIFIERS**

Suppliers may submit a claim with a KX modifier only if all the criteria for that item are met.

If coverage criteria are not met, the GA or GZ modifier must be used. When there is an expectation of a medical denial, suppliers must enter the GA modifier on the claim line if they have obtained a properly executed Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) or the GZ modifier if they have not obtained a valid ABN.

**ADVANCED BENEFICIARY NOTICE**

The Health Plan expects providers to follow the Medicare policy on ABN across all Medicare, Medicaid, and Commercial plans.

**NOTE:** Providers may be held financially responsible if they furnish the above items without notifying the member, verbally and in writing, that the specific service being provided is not covered. This must be done prior to the dispensing of the device. The provider must submit the waiver or ABN to The Health Plan with the claim showing the member agreed to pay for the device. Generalized statements on waivers or ABN are not acceptable.

**PRICING, DATA ANALYSIS, AND CODING (PDAC)**

The Health Plan has implemented use of Medicare’s PDAC contractor for review of authorizations. Suppliers should contact the PDAC contractor for guidance on the correct coding of these items. [dmepdac.com](http://www.dmepdac.com)

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**INTERNET LINKS AND SOURCES**


West Virginia Medicaid Internet Provider Manual. Chapter 506. Covered Services, Limitations, and Exclusions for DME Medical Supplies. Last accessed 07/01/17. Retrieved from
Face-to-Face Examination and Prescription Requirements Prior to the Delivery of Certain DME Items
Specified in the Affordable Care Act DME MAC Joint Publication. Posted February 20, 2014. Updated
10/01/15. Revised 04/28/16. Last accessed 09/01/16. Retrieved from

CMS.gov Medicare and Medicaid Services website. Face-to-Face Requirements. Last accessed 06/01/16.
Retrieved from cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-
Compliance-Programs/Medical-Review/FacetoFaceEncounterRequirementforCertainDurableMedicalEquipment.html and
cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Durable-Medical-Equipment-DME-Center.html

Patients Undergoing Supratentorial Craniotomy. J Neurosurg Anesthesiol. 2010

