



PROVIDER BULLETIN: 10-01

**Title: Transcutaneous, Interferential and Percutaneous
Electrical Nerve Stimulators**

To:

From: (Contact)

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
Dental Surgeons
DME Suppliers
Naturopathic Physicians
Osteopathic Physicians
Physicians
Physician Assistants
Physical Therapists
Podiatric Physicians
Occupational Therapists
Self-Insured Employers

Josh Morse
Office of the Medical Director
PO Box 44321
Olympia, WA 98504-4321
(360) 902-5026
mojo235@Lni.wa.gov
Provider Hotline 1-800-848-0811 or
from Olympia 902-6500

Affects: State Fund claims Self-Insured claims
 Crime Victims Compensation Program All locations

Effective Date: March 1, 2010 Removal from Web Date: June 30, 2011

For access to complete information on this coverage decision please visit:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Treatment/CovMedDev/SpecCovDec/default.asp>

Coverage Decision

Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS), interferential current therapy (IFC) and percutaneous neuromodulation therapy (PNT) devices for use outside of medically supervised facility settings are **not covered** for State Fund, Self-Insured and Crime Victims claims. This includes home use, purchase or rental of durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies. Use of these therapies will continue to be covered during hospitalization and in supervised facility settings.

Background Policy Information

On October 30, 2009, the State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) met in an open public meeting to review the evidence for Electrical Nerve Stimulation (ENS), including TENS, IFC and PNT, as treatments for acute and chronic pain. Based on a review of the best available evidence of safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness, the committee's determination is that ENS is noncovered for use outside of medically supervised facilities. Purchase or rental of TENS, IFC, and PNT equipment and supplies is not covered. The determination was made final by the HTCC on November 20, 2009.

Complete information on this HTCC determination is available at:
<http://www.hta.hca.wa.gov>.

TENS/IFC/PNT Unit Rental and Purchase

Based on the HTCC decision, for workers covered by the Department of Labor and Industries State Fund and Self Insured employers, effective March 1, 2010, payment for existing ENS (includes TENS, IFC and PNT) device rentals or purchases will be discontinued.

- Purchased ENS units already supplied (EMPI - purchase date prior to March 1, 2010) are owned by the injured worker.

Supplies for purchased ENS units will no longer be reimbursed by the insurer.

- For State Fund claims, rental units must be returned to the contracted supplier. To contact the supplier regarding existing TENS and IFC rental returns:

EMPI, Inc.
599 Cardigan Road
St. Paul, MN 55126
Phone: (800) 999-TENS, (800) 999-8367
Fax: (800) 400-5022

- For self-insured claims, contact the employer or their third party administrator (TPA) for ENS rental return assistance, if necessary.

Billing Codes for Home Use

Code	Description	Note
A4595	TENS Supp 2 lead per month	Not covered
A4630	Replacement battery TENS owned by patient	Not covered
E0720	TENS, 2 lead	Not covered
E0730	TENS, 4 lead	Not covered

Copyright information: Many *Provider Bulletins* contain CPT® codes. CPT® five-digit codes, descriptions, and other data only are copyright 2009 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values or related listings are included in CPT®. AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.

CPT® codes and descriptions only are copyright 2009 American Medical Association.