APPLICATION STATEMENT

The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

DISCLAIMER

The Clinical Coverage Guideline (CCG) is intended to supplement certain standard WellCare benefit plans and aid in administering benefits. Federal and state law, contract language, etc. take precedence over the CCG (e.g., Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] National Coverage Determinations [NCDs], Local Coverage Determinations [LCDs] or other published documents). The terms of an enrollee's particular Benefit Plan, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, etc., may differ significantly from this Coverage Position. For example, an enrollee's benefit plan may contain specific exclusions related to the topic addressed in this CCG. Additionally, CCGs relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans and are NOT recommendations for treatment, nor should they be used as treatment guidelines. Providers are responsible for the treatment and recommendations provided to the enrollee. The application of the CCG is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations, and any state-specific Medicaid mandates. Links are current at time of approval by the Medical Policy Committee (MPC) and are subject to change. Lines of business are also subject to change without notice and are noted on www.wellcare.com. Guidelines are also available on the site by selecting the Provider tab, then "Tools" and "Clinical Guidelines".

BACKGROUND

Each year in the United States, more than 30,000 patients undergo back surgery for lumbar spinal stenosis, an abnormal narrowing or constriction of spaces in the back that provide pathways for spinal nerves. This disorder is the most common reason for back surgery in patients aged > 65 years and it usually develops due to changes in the spinal disks, joints, and/or ligaments. These changes can compress spinal nerves causing pain and difficulty with walking. Many patients with lumbar spinal stenosis benefit from conservative treatments including rest, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), muscle relaxants, and an appropriate program of physical therapy. Steroid injections may also prove to be effective. If conservative treatments do not provide sufficient relief, back surgery may be needed.2

CMS describes the Interspinous Process Decompression (IPD®) procedure as a less invasive surgical procedure in which a titanium metal implant is placed between the spinous processes of the symptomatic lumbar disc levels. The implant may be placed at two levels if necessary. It is performed as an alternative to laminectomy for patients diagnosed with lumbar spinal stenosis who exhibit symptoms of intermittent neurogenic claudication and are able to relieve their symptoms when bending forward or when the spine is in a flexed position such as when sitting. The
Implant is designed to limit pathologic extension of the spinal segments and maintain them in a neutral or slightly flexed position which may allow patients to resume their normal posture rather than flex the entire spine to gain symptom relief. IPD® is performed in the operating room under local, spinal or general anesthesia. It is done as either an inpatient or outpatient procedure depending upon the number of levels performed and the associated comorbidities.  

**POSITION STATEMENT**

**Applicable To:**
- Medicaid – Kentucky

The X Stop® Interspinous Process Decompression System (Kyphon Inc.) is considered experimental/investigational and is not a medical benefit.

**CODING**

**Covered CPT® Codes**

- 28899 Unlisted Procedure – foot or toes
- 22867-22870 Spinal Distraction/Stabilization Device

**Covered HCPCS® Code**

- C1821 Interspinous process distraction device (implantable)

**Covered ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes**

- M48.061 Spinal stenosis, lumbar region without neurogenic claudication
- M48.062 Spinal stenosis, lumbar region with neurogenic claudication

The X Stop® Interspinous Process Decompression (IPD) System has been developed as part of a surgical method to treat lumbar spinal stenosis that includes neurogenic intermittent claudication, a disorder in which spinal nerves are compressed or “pinched.”

Coding information is provided for informational purposes only. The inclusion or omission of a CPT, HCPCS, or ICD-10 code does not imply enrollee coverage or provider reimbursement. Consult the enrollee’s benefits that are in place at time of service to determine coverage (or non-coverage) as well as applicable federal/state laws.

**REFERENCES**


**MEDICAL POLICY COMMITTEE HISTORY AND REVISIONS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/16/2020</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. No changes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1/2018</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. Updated guideline to include in coverage for FL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7/2017, 6/2/2016, 6/5/2015, 7/10/2014</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. No changes.</td>
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<td>7/11/2013</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. Status changed to experimental/investigational; non-covered.</td>
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<td>7/5/2012</td>
<td>Approved by MPC. No changes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1/2011</td>
<td>New template design approved by MPC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/2/2011</td>
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