



Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring

LOB(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	State(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Idaho <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montana <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon
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Enterprise Policy

PacificSource is committed to assessing and applying current regulatory standards, widely-used treatment guidelines, and evidenced-based clinical literature when developing clinical criteria for coverage determination. Each policy contains a list of sources (references) that serves as the summary of evidence used in the development and adoption of the criteria. The evidence was considered to ensure the criteria provide clinical benefits that promote patient safety and/or access to appropriate care. Each clinical policy is reviewed, updated as needed, and readopted, at least annually, to reflect changes in regulation, new evidence, and advancements in healthcare.

Clinical Guidelines are written when necessary to provide guidance to providers and members in order to outline and clarify coverage criteria in accordance with the terms of the Member's policy. This Clinical Guideline only applies to PacificSource Health Plans, PacificSource Community Health Plans, and PacificSource Community Solutions in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Because of the changing nature of medicine, this list is subject to revision and update without notice. This document is designed for informational purposes only and is not an authorization or contract. Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Member's policy. Member policies differ in benefits and to the extent a conflict exists between the Clinical Guideline and the Member's policy, the Member's policy language shall control. Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice nor guarantee coverage.

Background

Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring (IONM) and testing are medical procedures that allow monitoring of neurophysiologic signals during a surgical procedure. The purpose of intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring is to reduce the risk of damage to the patient's nervous system and to provide functional guidance to the surgeon and anesthesiologist.

Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring includes evoked potential (EP) testing (also called evoked response testing) which refers to measurements of nerve function following artificial sensory stimuli as recorded by electroencephalogram (EEG) electrodes. Peripheral, subcortical, or cortical regions may be examined with EPs depending on placement of electrodes and type of stimulus applied. EP testing includes the following studies:

- Central auditory testing (also called brainstem auditory-evoked potentials)
- Sensory evoked potential testing (include(s) somatosensory-evoked potentials)
- Central motor evoked potential study (transcranial motor stimulation)
- Motor-evoked potentials
- Evoked response audiometry
- Visual evoked potential

Commercial

Prior authorization is required

Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring (IONM) must be requested by the operating surgeon and must be performed by a physician other than the operating surgeon, the technician/surgical assistant, or the anesthesiologist rendering the anesthesia.

PacificSource may consider intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring to be medically necessary for **ANY** of the following:

1. Cerebral vascular aneurysms
2. Deep brain stimulation
3. Resection of epileptogenic brain tissue, brain tumors, or brain tissue that is close to the primary motor cortex and requires brain mapping
4. Surgical treatment of a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury
5. Protection of cranial nerves: during **ANY** of the following:
 - Tumors that are optic, trigeminal, facial, auditory nerves
 - Cavernous sinus tumors
 - Oval or round window graft
 - Endolymphatic shunt for Meniere's disease
 - Vestibular section for vertigo
 - Microvascular decompression of cranial nerves
6. Anterior cervical spine surgery associated with **ANY** of the following increased risk situations:
 - Prior anterior cervical surgery (e.g., revision anterior cervical discectomy and fusion, revision surgery through a scarred surgical field, reoperation for pseudarthrosis or revision for failed fusion)
 - Multilevel anterior cervical discectomy and fusion
 - Anterior cervical discectomy and fusion with anticipated extended surgical time needed to due to additional surgical complexities (e.g., tumor removal)
7. Arteriography during which there is a test occlusion of the carotid artery
8. Aortic surgical procedures
9. Circulatory arrest with hypothermia
10. Intracranial or spinal cord arteriovenous malformations
11. Correction of scoliosis or deformity of spinal cord involving traction on the cord
12. Resection of:
 - Spinal cord tumors
 - Neuromas of peripheral nerves or brachial plexus, when there is risk to major sensory or motor nerves

13. Leg lengthening procedures with traction on nerve tracks

14. Surgery for movement disorders (e.g., Parkinson's, basil ganglia surgeries)

Medicaid

PacificSource Community Solutions (PCS) follows to the general coverage, limitations, and exclusions outlined in OARs 410-141-3820, 410-141-3825, and 410-120-1200 (refer to the Covered Services policy for information regarding general coverage, limitations, and exclusions) for non-EPSDT beneficiaries.

PacificSource Community Solutions (PCS) follows the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) coverage requirements in OAR 410-151-0002 through 410-151-0003 for EPSDT beneficiaries. Coverage of Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring (IONM) is determined through case-by-case reviews for EPSDT Medical Necessity and EPSDT Medical Appropriateness defined in OAR 410-151-0001. Guideline Note E2 may be used to assist in informing a determination of medical necessity and medical appropriateness during the individual case review.

Some of the procedure codes defined as IONM below have specific coverage rules; these rules are as follows:

- 95925, 95926, and 95927 are considered diagnostic in nature. For diagnostic services not appearing on the Prioritized List, PCS utilizes the OHP's Diagnostic Procedure Code Group 1119 and covers these services when medically necessary and appropriate for the specific member as described in Covered Services OAR 410-141-3820. Services may be limited or excluded if the service meets the criteria outlined in OARs 410-141-3825 and 410-120-1200.
- PacificSource Community Solutions follows Excluded Services Guideline Note E2 of the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) Prioritized List of Health Services and the general coverage requirements, limitations, and exclusions outlined in OARs 410-141-3820, 410-141-3825, and 410-120-1200 to determine coverage of Central motor evoked potential study, upper limbs, 95928, and Central motor evoked potential study, lower limbs, 95929.
- 95940 and 95941 are ancillary services. For ancillary services not appearing on the Prioritized List, PCS utilizes Ancillary Services Code Group 6060 and covers these services when medically necessary and appropriate to provide a funded service; or if providing the ancillary service would enable the member to retain or attain the capability for independence or self-care as described in Covered Services OAR 410-141-3820. Coverage of ancillary services is subject to any applicable Ancillary Guidelines on the Prioritized List, and the limitations and exclusions outlined in OARs 410-141-3825 and 410-120-1200.
- 95999 is defined as an unlisted code. PCS follows the "Unlisted, Unspecified, and Not Otherwise Specified Procedure Codes" policy for requests for unlisted codes.

Medicare

PacificSource Medicare follows CMS guidelines and criteria. In the absence of CMS guidelines and criteria, PacificSource Medicare will follow the PacificSource Commercial clinical criteria above for coverage of Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring.

PacificSource Medicare follows the "Unlisted, Unspecified, and Not Otherwise Specified Procedure Codes" policy for requests for unlisted codes.

Reimbursement Criteria

Facility: Intraoperative neurophysiological testing, supplies, and technician services cannot be billed by the facility since it is included in the more comprehensive surgical procedure.

Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring (IONM) in the operating room is considered incidental to the surgeon's or anesthesiologist's primary service.

- IONM services billed by a facility are not eligible for separate reimbursement.
- Professional services are only eligible for separate reimbursement when performed and billed by an eligible provider other than the surgeon, technical/surgical assistant or anesthesiologist rendering the anesthesia.

Provider:

- Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring must be performed by a physician, MD or DO who is trained in clinical neurophysiology (e.g., neurologist, physiatrist).
- The monitoring provider must be solely dedicated to monitoring the neurophysiological tests (either on-site or at a remote location), and available to intervene if necessary.
- The monitoring physician cannot bill for the professional component of monitoring performed by O.R. technicians, nurses, or other professionals employed by the hospital.
- The monitoring physician cannot bill for the technical component of intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring performed by O.R. technicians, nurses, or other professionals whether employed by the hospital, physician, or an intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring vendor.
- Claim must be supported by submitted documentation that includes detailed signed written reports of results.
- The monitoring physician services are billed with codes 95940 and 95941, and include supervision, interpretation, and analysis.
- The primary physician/surgeon cannot bill for intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring as it is included in the global package.
- Incident-to billing is not allowed

Coding Information

The following list of codes are for informational purposes only and may not be all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

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| 95925 | Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in upper limbs |
| 95926 | Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in lower limbs |
| 95927 | Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in the trunk or head |
| 95928 | Central motor evoked potential study (transcranial motor stimulation); upper limbs |

- 95929 Central motor evoked potential study (transcranial motor stimulation); lower limbs
- 95937 Neuromuscular junction testing (repetitive stimulation, paired stimuli), each nerve, any 1 method
- 95938 Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in upper and lower limbs
- 95939 Central motor evoked potential study (transcranial motor stimulation); in upper And lower limbs
- 95940 Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring in the operating room, one on one monitoring requiring personal attendance, each 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 95941 Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring, from outside the operating room (remote or nearby) or for monitoring of more than one case while in the operating room, per hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 95999 Unlisted neurological or neuromuscular diagnosis procedure
- G0453 Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring, from outside the operating room (remote or nearby), per patient, (attention directed exclusively to one patient) each 15 minutes (list in addition to primary procedure)

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HCPCS® codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Related Policies

Unlisted, Unspecified, and Not Otherwise Specified Procedure Codes

References

American Academy of Neurology. Principles of Coding for Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring (IOM) and Testing Model Coverage Policy. https://www.aan.com/siteassets/home-page/tools-and-resources/practicing-neurologist--administrators/billing-and-coding/model-coverage-policies/18iommodelpolicy_tr.pdf

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Appendix

Policy Number:

Effective: 11/1/2020

Next review: 2/1/2027

Policy type: Enterprise

Author(s):

Depts: Health Services, Claims, Provider Network

Applicable regulation(s): CMS Article A57604 and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) L34623; Guideline Note 173 of the HERC Prioritized List of Health Services; Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 410-120-1200, 410-141-3820, 410-141-3825, 410-141-3830, 410-151-0001, and 410-151-0002.

OPs Approval: 12/2025