INTERSPINOUS PROCESS SPACERS

Description: Interspinous process spacers have been developed and proposed as alternatives to conservative management or open lumbar spinal decompression surgery. These devices are intended to relieve symptoms of neurogenic intermittent claudication secondary to lumbar spinal stenosis by limiting extension of the spine in the affected area when the patient stands or walks.

Interspinous process spacers may be categorized as static or dynamic. Static devices are implanted between the vertebral spinous processes. After implantation, the device is opened or expanded to distract (open) the neural foramen and decompress the nerves. Dynamic spacers, or interlaminar devices, are implanted midline between adjacent lamina and spinous processes to provide dynamic stabilization following decompressive surgery.

The X-STOP® Interspinous Process Decompression (IPD®) System has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of patients aged 50 or older suffering from neurogenic intermittent claudication secondary to a confirmed diagnosis of lumbar spinal stenosis. It is approved for patients with moderately impaired physical function who have had a regimen of at least six months of non-operative treatment and who have relief of their pain when in flexion. The coflex® Interlaminar Technology implant has been approved for use in 1- or 2-level lumbar stenosis from L1-L5 in skeletally mature patients with at least moderate impairment in function, who experience relief in flexion from their symptoms of leg/buttocks/groin pain, with or without back pain, and who have undergone at least six months of non-operative treatment.

Definitions: Neurogenic intermittent claudication: Symptoms of leg pain (and occasionally weakness) when walking or standing, related to nerve compression.
**Spinal stenosis:** Narrowing of the spinal column, resulting in pressure on the spinal cord and/or nerve roots.

**Spinous process:** Protrusion on the center of the back of a vertebral body. It is the site for attachment of muscles and ligaments to the spine.

**Lamina:** Roof of the spinal canal that provides support and protection for the backside of the spinal cord.

**Policy:** Interspinous process spacers, including interspinous distraction spacers and interlaminar stabilization spacers, are considered **INVESTIGATIVE** for all indications, due to a lack of evidence demonstrating an impact on improved health outcomes.

**Coverage:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota medical policies apply generally to all Blue Cross and Blue Plus plans and products. Benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain services addressed in the medical policies.

Medicaid products and some self-insured plans may have additional policies and prior authorization requirements. Receipt of benefits is subject to all terms and conditions of the member’s summary plan description (SPD). As applicable, review the provisions relating to a specific coverage determination, including exclusions and limitations. Blue Cross reserves the right to revise, update and/or add to its medical policies at any time without notice.

For Medicare NCD and/or Medicare LCD, please consult CMS or National Government Services websites.

Refer to the Pre-Certification/Pre-Authorization section of the Medical Behavioral Health Policy Manual for the full list of services, procedures, prescription drugs, and medical devices that require Pre-certification/Pre-Authorization. Note that services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial of claims may result if criteria are not met.

**Coding:** The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

**CPT:**

0171T Insertion of posterior spinous process distraction device (including necessary removal of bone or ligament for insertion and imaging guidance), lumbar; single level

0172T Insertion of posterior spinous process distraction device (including necessary removal of bone or ligament for insertion and imaging guidance), lumbar; multiple levels
imaging guidance), lumbar; each additional level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

HCPCS:
C1821 Interspinous process distraction device (implantable)

ICD-9 Procedure:
84.80 Insertion or replacement of interspinous process device(s)
84.81 Revision of interspinous process device(s)

ICD-10 Procedure:
0SH00BZ Insertion of Interspinous Process Spinal Stabilization Device into Lumbar Vertebral Joint, Open Approach
0SH03BZ Insertion of Interspinous Process Spinal Stabilization Device into Lumbar Vertebral Joint, Percutaneous Approach
0SH04BZ Insertion of Interspinous Process Spinal Stabilization Device into Lumbar Vertebral Joint, Percutaneous Endoscopic Approach
0SH30BZ Insertion of Interspinous Process Spinal Stabilization Device into Lumbosacral Joint, Open Approach
0SH33BZ Insertion of Interspinous Process Spinal Stabilization Device into Lumbosacral Joint, Percutaneous Approach
0SH34BZ Insertion of Interspinous Process Spinal Stabilization Device into Lumbosacral Joint, Percutaneous Endoscopic Approach

Policy History:
Developed February 8, 2006

Most recent history:
Reviewed August 10, 2011
Reviewed/Updated, no policy statement changes August 8, 2012
Revised August 14, 2013
Reviewed August 13, 2014

Cross Reference:

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) is copyright 2013 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values, or related listings are included in CPT. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use.

Copyright 2014 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.