

# Children's Hospital and Health System Chorus Community Health Plans (CCHP) Policy and Procedure

This policy applies to the following entity(s):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Milwaukee                         | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Fox Valley                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Foundation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Surgicenter                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Community Services Division       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chorus Community Health Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Primary Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Specialty Group               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Urgent Care  | <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Corporate Departments               |

## Medical Utilization Management Policy

### **SUBJECT: TENS (TRANSCUTANEOUS ELECTRICAL NERVE STIMULATION)**

#### **INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):**

##### **Medicaid**

BadgerCare Plus

Care4Kids Program

##### **Individual and Family**

Commercial

Marketplace

#### **PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this policy is to define criteria for the medically necessary use of a TENS unit beyond an initial three month trial period. An initial trial period of rental use up to three months does not require approval under this policy.

For pain from dysmenorrhea, osteoarthritis of the knee, and post-surgical pain, CCHP will follow MCG Careweb Guideline ACG: A-0241. For chronic pain from other causes, CCHP will consider the purchase for ongoing use of a TENS unit, after the first three months of a trial period, as medically necessary when BOTH of the following criteria are met:

1. The member has had a clinically appropriate trial of at least one of the following: pharmacotherapy, physical therapy, or chiropractic manipulation, and this trial failed to adequately control the member's pain; and
2. The member has had a trial of use of a TENS unit for at least 3 months, and clinical documentation supplied with the request demonstrates that the member used the TENS unit regularly, and that the TENS unit significantly improved the member's pain.

Effective: 5/17

Last reviewed: 10/23

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Developed by: CCHP Medical Directors

## **REFERENCES:**

1. Chiu TT, Hui-Chan CW, Cheing G. A randomized clinical trial of TENS and exercise for patients with chronic neck pain. *Clinical Rehabilitation* 2005; 19: 850-860.
2. Electrical Nerve Stimulation, Transcutaneous (TENS). Careweb QI Guideline ACG: A-042, CareWebQI Version: 15.2, MCG Health.
3. Khadilkar A, Odebiyi DO, Brosseau L, Wells GA. Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) versus placebo for chronic low-back pain. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2008, Issue 4.

Effective: 5/17

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