



## **Incorrect Billing of HCPCS L8679 - Implantable Neurostimulator, Pulse Generator, Any Type**

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### **PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED**

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This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for HCPCS code L8679 (implantable neurostimulator, pulse generator any type).

### **PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED**

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is aware that some providers are submitting claims incorrectly to Medicare using HCPCS code L8679. This article reminds providers of Medicare policy regarding these devices. Make sure your billing staff are aware of the correct policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

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Electro-acupuncture devices, including but not limited to P-STIM® devices, are applied behind the ear using an adhesive and/or with needles inserted into the patient's ear (similar to acupuncture). Providers are inappropriately coding electro-acupuncture devices as implantable neurostimulators (HCPCS L8679 - implantable neurostimulator, pulse generator, any type), which are Medicare-covered devices that require surgical implantation into the central nervous system or targeted peripheral nerve, and are usually implanted via procedures performed in operating rooms (see CMS Publication 100-03, National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual, Section 160.7). While both devices can be used to treat chronic pain, the electro-acupuncture devices are non-invasive (that is, do not require surgical implantation and/or an incision), and have an external battery source. Electro-acupuncture devices and implantable neurostimulators are two separate devices, and coding electro-acupuncture devices as implantable neurostimulators is incorrect. Also, HCPCS L8679, when appropriately billed for an implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, should be submitted with the appropriate HCPCS/CPT surgical procedural code, as listed in the table below.

**Coding Guidelines**

Do not report HCPCS code L8679 for the electro-acupuncture device(s). HCPCS code L8679 does not describe devices used for stimulation of acupuncture points.

**Coding Information**

- **Bill Type Codes** - Not applicable
- **Revenue Codes** - Not Applicable
- **CPT/HCPCS Codes**
  - Beginning March 1, 2020, MACs will reject claims for HCPCS code L8679 submitted without an appropriate HCPCS/CPT surgical procedure code.
  - Claims for HCPCS code L8679 billed with an appropriate HCPCS/CPT surgical code will be suspended for medical review to verify that coverage, coding, and billing rules have been met.
- **Date of Service** - Beginning March 1, 2020, all claims billed with HCPCS L8679 must be billed with the same date of service as the applicable surgical procedure code from the following table:

<b>HCPCS Code</b>	<b>HCPCS Code Description</b>
61885	Insertion or replacement of cranial neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling
61886	Insertion or replacement of cranial neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling
63650	Implantation of spinal neurostimulator electrodes, accessed through the skin
63655	Laminectomy for implantation of neurostimulator electrodes, plate/paddle, epidural
63661	Removal or revision of spinal neurostimulator electrodes, accessed through the skin
63663	Revision and replacement of spinal neurostimulator electrodes
63664	Revision including replacement, when performed, of spinal neurostimulator electrode plate/paddle(s) placed via laminotomy or laminectomy, including fluoroscopy, when performed
63685	Insertion of spinal neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver
63688	Removal or revision of neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver
64553	Implantation of cranial nerve neurostimulator electrodes, accessed through the skin
64555	Implantation of peripheral nerve neurostimulator electrodes, accessed through the skin
64561	Insertion of sacral nerve neurostimulator electrodes, accessed through the skin
64568	Incision for implantation of cranial nerve (e.g. vagus nerve) neurostimulator electrode array and pulse generator
64569	Revision of implanted cranial nerve neurostimulator electrodes

HCPCS Code	HCPCS Code Description
64575	Incision to implant peripheral nerve neurostimulator electrodes
64580	Incision to implant muscle neurostimulator electrodes
64581	Incision to insert sacral nerve neurostimulator electrodes
64585	Revision or removal of peripheral neurostimulator electrode array
64590	Insertion or replacement of peripheral or gastric neurostimulator generator
64595	Revision or removal of peripheral nerve or gastric neurostimulator generator

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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The NCD Manual Section 160.7 on implanted peripheral nerve stimulators is available at [https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/ncd103c1\\_Part2.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/ncd103c1_Part2.pdf).

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

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Date of Change	Description
January 29, 2020	Initial article released.

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