

Table Attachment Z-7

The physician's documentation should include:

- Initial assessment/evaluation of the nature, duration, and perceived intensity of pain; **and**
- The types and duration of prior treatments; **and**
- Treatment plan including ongoing medications and proposed use of TENS unit including the frequency and duration of treatment.

There is to be a minimum trial period of two months (60 days) in which the unit is to be used in the physician or physical therapists office or is to be rented by a DME supplier for a minimum of two months to determine whether the patient is likely to derive a significant therapeutic benefit from the continued use of electrical stimulation.

A physician or physical therapist is to determine within a trial period of two months whether the patient is likely to derive a significant therapeutic benefit from the continued use of electrical stimulation. Once this is determined, the patient should use the TENS at home, or if PENS was used, a stimulator should be implanted. Consequently, continued treatments, rather than assessment services, furnished by a physician in his office, by a physical therapist (applicable to TENS only) or outpatient clinic should be denied.

The physician or physical therapist providing the TENS assessment service will provide the necessary equipment. If the patient rents the stimulator from a supplier during the trial period, payment may be made for the rental of the unit as well as the physician's or physical therapist's service, when a benefit. However, the combined payment may not exceed the amount which would have been payable to the physician or physical therapist alone for the total assessment service.

If the services continue for longer than two months, the claim should be evaluated to determine if the patient's condition is chronic, in which case the TENS would be covered as a prosthetic device.

Supplies

Supplies for an electrical stimulation device cannot be ordered on a lifetime/indefinite scale. Supplies can be prescribed for a maximum of 1 calendar year, and incrementally billed on a monthly basis.

If additional electrodes are needed (due to skin condition, etc.), the referring physician is to clearly document the need in the patient's medical record. This documentation must clearly indicate how many additional units are being requested for the patient **AND** the frequency at which electrodes are to be replaced. Additional units should never be requested in conjunction with an initial rental/purchase order as there is no demonstrated need for additional units; Additional units should be requested sparingly.

During the rental of a TENS unit, supplies for the unit are included in the rental allowance; there is no additional allowance for electrodes, lead wires, batteries, etc. If a TENS unit is purchased, the allowance includes lead wires and one month's supply of electrodes, conductive paste or gel (if needed), and batteries.