

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 15.3

STEREOTACTIC IMPLANTATION OF DEPTH ELECTRODES

Issue Date: October 25, 1993

Authority: 32 CFR 199.4(a)(1), (b)(2)(vii), and (c)(2)

I. PROCEDURE CODES

61760, 61795, 61855, 61880, 61885, 95970 - 95975, 99211 - 99215

II. DESCRIPTION

Stereotactic implantation of depth electrodes is an invasive procedure in which needle like electrodes are implanted through burr holes in the skull into the depths of specific brain areas to localize a seizure focus in patients who are candidates for surgery or to implant a brain stimulator in the thalamus to control tremors. This policy also addresses implantation of electrodes to the autonomic nervous system.

III. POLICY

A. Stereotactic implantation of depth electrodes is covered.

B. Implantation of a FDA-approved vagus nerve stimulator as adjunctive therapy in reducing the frequency of seizures in adults and adolescents over 12 years of age, which are refractory to anti-epileptic medications is covered. Battery replacement is also covered.

NOTE: Coverage may also be provided for beneficiaries under the age of 12 when a physician has attested to the appropriateness in a particular case.

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