Spinal Cord Stimulation

Reference Guide to Payer Medical Policy

The following links to Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS) payer medical policies are for informational purposes only. This guide is not a complete list of payers or related medical policies, as medical policy and criteria are updated by payer organizations periodically. Information provided below is subject to change without notice; contact the payer directly for complete information.

Covered indications and medical necessity criteria vary by payer policy. Always seek prior authorization and review the payer medical policy guidelines prior to scheduling SCS procedures.

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| **Payer Name** | **Effective Date** | **Link to Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy** |
| **National Payers** |
|   | Aetna | 12/17/1997 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation - Medical Clinical Policy Bulletins | Aetna](https://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/100_199/0194.html) |
|   | Cigna |   | [Cigna\_Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation (evicore.com)](https://www.evicore.com/-/media/files/evicore/provider/network-standard/cigna_cmm-211_spinal-cord-and-dorsal-root-ganglion-stimulation_v102023_eff05312023_pub02162023.pdf) |
|   | Humana | 1/1/2023 | [Medical Coverage Policies (humana.com)](http://apps.humana.com/tad/tad_new/Search.aspx?searchtype=beginswith&docbegin=S&policyType=medical) |
|   | United Healthcare | 12/1/2022 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy uhcprovider.com](https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/policies/comm-medical-drug/implanted-electrical-stimulator-spinal-cord.pdf) |
|   | Anthem BCBS(CA, CO, CT, GA, IN, KT, ME, MO, NH, NV, NY, OH, VA, WI ) |   | [Spinal Cord Stimulation AIM Musculoskeletal Program](https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Interventional-Pain-Management-11-06-22.pdf) |
| **Regional BCBS Payers**  |
|   | BCBS Alabama | 5/1/2022 | [BCBS AL Spinal Cord Stimulation](https://al-policies.exploremyplan.com/portal/web/medical-policies/-/mp-328?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fal-policies.exploremyplan.com%2Fportal%2Fweb%2Fal-policies%2Fhome%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dmaximized%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_redirect%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fal-policies.exploremyplan.com%252Fportal%252Fweb%252Fal-policies%252Fhome%253Fp_p_id%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_mvcPath%3D%252Fsearch.jsp%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_keywords%3Dspinal%2Bcord%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_formDate%3D1677112385902%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_scope%3Dthis-site) |
|   | BCBS Arkansas | 11/1/2022 | [Coverage Policy Manual - Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield](https://secure.arkansasbluecross.com/members/report.aspx?policyNumber=1997208) |
|   | BCBS Florida | 9/15/2002 | [BCBS FL Spinal MCG](http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/MCG?activity=openSearchedDocMcg&imgId=75WPWYBJV3X8KPP9MRT)  |
|   | BCBS Hawaii HMSA | 4/1/2008 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation, HMSA 5/27/2022](https://cdn1-originals.webdamdb.com/14017_108319050?cache=1654026999&response-content-disposition=inline;filename=MM.06.013_Spinal_Cord_and_Dorsal_Root_Ganglion_Stimulation_2022-0527.pdf&response-content-type=application/pdf&Policy=eyJTdGF0ZW1lbnQiOlt7IlJlc291cmNlIjoiaHR0cCo6Ly9jZG4xLW9yaWdpbmFscy53ZWJkYW1kYi5jb20vMTQwMTdfMTA4MzE5MDUwP2NhY2hlPTE2NTQwMjY5OTkmcmVzcG9uc2UtY29udGVudC1kaXNwb3NpdGlvbj1pbmxpbmU7ZmlsZW5hbWU9TU0uMDYuMDEzX1NwaW5hbF9Db3JkX2FuZF9Eb3JzYWxfUm9vdF9HYW5nbGlvbl9TdGltdWxhdGlvbl8yMDIyLTA1MjcucGRmJnJlc3BvbnNlLWNvbnRlbnQtdHlwZT1hcHBsaWNhdGlvbi9wZGYiLCJDb25kaXRpb24iOnsiRGF0ZUxlc3NUaGFuIjp7IkFXUzpFcG9jaFRpbWUiOjIxNDc0MTQ0MDB9fX1dfQ__&Signature=eO1-a1iyV5PkVzqOopoRi69NpKKtVkAlB8sxzfR8vX8MKVVIANHeCwNqjR~Xrtr~jHOMeWxV08vbCXRuX0QLXTwN34cy82BsU6NUHe6Xw1BAqCedOq26U~uWt1-vAGkzFnz7~3x9PuHnDe5u~A7dhUkCrH~~AoSQ99oGRowXhFY41Vocfr77-0Xm7DS4V~HgDOO9RP18gyUxBkntFrJipU96OFCr5aTYzMrKctlD6BQu~zlj~tChwIH3DMGan1gwS7xTxs-l3KuaXOldpBSm8vbGNRQm5XZuuazOJO4NpMLTRpShV9qIjULo4PYqQQpaBHZ91oYKRyvG95q1ytjVdQ__&Key-Pair-Id=APKAI2ASI2IOLRFF2RHA) |
|   | BCBS Idaho | 4/8/2022 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation BCBSIDAHO](https://providers.bcidaho.com/resources/pdfs/medical-management/Medical%20Policy%20PDF/7%20-%20Surg/07.01.025_04-28-22.pdf) |
|   | BCBS Kansas | 9/26/2007 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation BCBSKS](https://www.bcbsks.com/medical-policies/spinal-cord-and-dorsal-root-ganglion-stimulation-2022-06-01) |
|   | BCBS Kansas City | 9/1/2022 | [eviCore\_Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation bluekc](https://medicalpolicy.bluekc.com/Home/Stream?uniqueId=5a71c7e5-0cc1-4b54-bb7d-9191dd33580c) |
|   | BCBS Louisiana | 8/18/2021 | [Medical Policy BCBSLA](https://www.bcbsla.com/-/media/Medical%20Policies/2020/08/03/17/36/SpinalCordStimulation.pdf) |
|   | BCBS Massachusetts | 10/1/2022 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation BCMASS](https://www.bluecrossma.org/medical-policies/sites/g/files/csphws2091/files/acquiadam-assets/472%20Spinal%20Cord%20and%20Dorsal%20Root%20Ganglion%20Stimulation%20prn.pdf) |
|   | BCBS Michigan | 1/1/2007 | <http://www.bcbsm.com/mprApp/MedicalPolicyDocument?fileId=91845> |
|   | BCBS Minnesota | 2/1/2016 | [BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota Medical Policy (bluecrossmnonline.com)](https://www.bluecrossmnonline.com/minnesota-medical-policy/external-medical-policy/minnesota-medical-policy/IV-74-002.html) |
|   | BCBS Mississippi | 5/1/2022 | [Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (bcbsms.com)](https://www.bcbsms.com/medical-policy-search#/policy-detail?id=2f82d0da-1a28-4c21-ba46-5ad6f9d6dedd) |
|   | BCBS Nebraska | 4/15/2015 | [BCBSNE Medical Policy (nebraskablue.com)](https://medicalpolicy.nebraskablue.com/policy/320/3) |
|   | BCBS North Carolina | 10/1/2021 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation bluecrossnc](https://www.bluecrossnc.com/sites/default/files/document/attachment/services/public/pdfs/medicalpolicy/spinal_cord_and_dorsal_root_ganglion_stimulation.pdf) |
|   | BCBS North Dakota | 3/1/2019 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation | BCBSND](https://www.bcbsnd.com/providers/policies-precertification/medical-policy/s/spinal-cord-and-dorsal-root-ganglion-stimulation) |
|   | BCBS Rhode Island | 3/1/2023 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation bcbsri](https://www.bcbsri.com/providers/sites/providers/files/policies/2022/11/2022%20DRAFT%20Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation.pdf) |
|   | BCBS South Carolina | 1/1/2023 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation southcarolinablues](https://www.southcarolinablues.com/web/public/brands/medicalpolicy/external/external-policies/spinal-cord-and-dorsal-root-ganglion-stimulation/) |
|   | Excellus BCBS (NY) | 9/15/2022 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation/Dorsal Column Stimulation excellusbcbs](https://provider.excellusbcbs.com/documents/20152/282902018/Spinal%2BCord%2BStimulation_Dorsal%2BColumn%2BStimulation.pdf/b70e7b21-a0d1-2157-5daa-4a28d5c9b702?t=1671466643280) |

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| **Payer Name** | **Effective Date** | **Link to Spinal Cord Stimulation Medical Policy** |
| **Regional BCBS Payers continued** |
|   | HCSC (IL, MT, NM, OK, TX) | 8/1/2022 | [Spinal Cord (SCS) and Dorsal Root Ganglion (DRG) Stimulation hcsc.net](http://www.medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/activePolicyPage?lid=l5f7nh2r&corpEntCd=IL1) |
|   | Highmark BCBS (PA, WV, DE, WNY, ENY) | 11/21/2016 | [Medical Policy (highmark.com)](https://secure.highmark.com/ldap/medicalpolicy/wpa-highmark/Z-7-037.html) |
|   | Horizon BCBS (NJ) | 2/14/2020 | [BCBSNJ Medical Policy Spinal Stimulation](https://services3.horizon-bcbsnj.com/hcm/MedPol2.nsf/MedicalPolicies/TKEN-6RP5D8) |
|   | Independence BC (PA) | 1/10/2021 | [IBC Medical Policies (ibx.com)](https://medpolicy.ibx.com/ibc/Commercial/Pages/Policy/5d7bf35e-ecaf-4daa-9ec6-f879cc4735e7.aspx) |
|   | Premera BC (AK, WA) | 7/1/2022 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation premera](https://www.premera.com/medicalpolicies/7.01.546.pdf) |
|   | Regence Blue Shield(WA, ID, OR, UT) | 1/1/2023 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation regence](https://blue.regence.com/trgmedpol/surgery/sur45.pdf) |
|   | Wellmark (IA, SD) | 8/1/2022 | [Spinal Cord and Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation wellmark](https://www.wellmark.com/-/media/sites/public/files/medical-policies/spinal-cord-stimulation) |
| **Other Regional Payers**  |
|   | Amerihealth | 1/8/2021 | [AmeriHealth Medical Policies](https://medpolicy.amerihealth.com/ah/Commercial/Pages/Policy/38a82f66-287e-4110-b85f-af0c99a3d9d6.aspx) |
|   | Health Net | 2/2/2022 | [Health Net Medical Policies | Health Net](https://www.healthnet.com/content/healthnet/en_us/providers/working-with-hn/medical_policies.html#S) |
|   | Health Partners | 2/1/2019 | [Spinal cord stimulation (healthpartners.com)](https://www.healthpartners.com/public/coverage-criteria/policy.html?contentid=AENTRY_046152) |
|   | Medical Mutual | 12/21/2022 | [Policy 200602: Spinal Cord Stimulation for Chronic Pain (medmutual.com)](https://www.medmutual.com/-/media/MedMutual/Files/Providers/CorporateMedicalPolicies/200602_Temporary-Trial-Spinal-Cord-Stimulation-for-Chronic-Pain.pdf) |
|   | Medica Health | 1/162023 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation (medica.com)](https://partner.medica.com/-/media/documents/provider/utilization-management-policies/iii-dev-23-um-policy.pdf?la=en) |
|   | PacificSource | 9/1/2021 | [Spinal Cord Stimulation.pdf (pacificsource.com)](https://pacificsource.com/sites/default/files/2022-08/Spinal%20Cord%20Stimulation.pdf) |
|   | Priority Health (MI) | 2/1/2023 | [Medical policies | Priority Health](https://www.priorityhealth.com/provider/manual/medical-policies#letter-s) |
|   | Select Health | 5/9/2019 | [Spinal-Cord-Stimulation (selecthealth.cloud)](https://files.selecthealth.cloud/api/public/content/219281-47-Spinal-Cord-Stimulation--New.pdf) |
|   | Tufts Health Plan | 11/6/2022 | [scs-insert (tuftshealthplan.com)](https://tuftshealthplan.com/documents/providers/guidelines/medical-necessity-guidelines/scs-insert) |
| **Medicare**  |
|   | National Coverage  | 7/1/1995 | [NCD - Electrical Nerve Stimulators (160.7) (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/MEDICARE-COVERAGE-DATABASE/view/ncd.aspx?NCDId=240&ncdver=1&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=All&KeyWord=electrical%2Bnerve%2Bstim&KeyWordLookUp=Title&KeyWordSearchType=And&bc=gAAAABAAAAAAAA%3d%3d) |
|   | First Coast(FL, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) LCD #L36035 | 11/28/2019 | [LCD - Spinal Cord Stimulation for Chronic Pain (L36035) (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?LCDId=36035) |
|   | Noridian JE(CA, NV, HI) LCD #L35136 | 12/1/2019 | [LCD - Spinal Cord Stimulators for Chronic Pain (L35136) (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdId=35136&ver=33) |
|   | Noridian JF(AK, AZ, ID, MT, WY, ND, OR, SD, UT, and WA) LCD#L36204 | 12/1/2019 | [LCD - Spinal Cord Stimulators for Chronic Pain (L36204) (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdId=36204&ver=22) |
|   | Novitas JH(AR, CO, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX, Indian HS, VA) LCD #L35450 | 9/26/2019 | [LCD - Spinal Cord Stimulation (Dorsal Column Stimulation) (L35450) (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=35450&ver=41&keyword=spinal%20cord%20stimulation&keywordType=starts&areaId=all&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance&bc=1) |
|   | Novitas JL(DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA) LCD #L35450 | 9/26/2019 | [LCD - Spinal Cord Stimulation (Dorsal Column Stimulation) (L35450) (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=35450&ver=41&keyword=spinal%20cord%20stimulation&keywordType=starts&areaId=all&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance&bc=1) |
|   | Palmetto GBA(NC, SC, VA, WV) LCD #L34556 | 2/25/2018 | [LCD - Spinal Cord Stimulators for Chronic Pain (L34556) (cms.gov)](https://localcoverage.cms.gov/mcd_archive/view/lcd.aspx?lcdInfo=34556:16&) |
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**Additional Support**

Abbott offers a reimbursement hotline, which provides coding and reimbursement information from dedicated reimbursement specialists. Please contact the Hotline at 855-569-6430 or AbbottEconomics@abbott.com.

**Note:** Medical policies were pulled from publicly available websites February 2023. Links will not be updated more than once a year.

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