1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria for the medical necessity of chemodenervations (i.e., botulinum toxin injections and other neurotoxins).

2. Definitions

2.1 Chemodenervations (i.e., botulinum toxin injections) are intramuscular injections of neurotoxins. The toxin acts by blocking release of acetylcholine at the neuromuscular junction thus reducing the tone of overactive muscles. There are several commercial products (consisting of either serotype-A or serotype-B) currently available for use. Each differs in its unit potency, side effects, and duration of action. The clinical goals for utilizing neurotoxin injections are to result in a temporary chemodenervation of the effected muscle at the neuromuscular junction thus: reducing pain or increasing comfort, improving function, preventing or treating musculoskeletal complications, facilitating ease of care, and/or for improving the general appearance, mobility and/or phonation in patients presenting with spasticity or dystonia.

3. Statement of Policy

3.1 The determination of medical necessity for the use of chemodenervation (i.e., botulinum toxin injections) is always made on a case-by-case basis.

3.2 Chemodenervation utilizing botulinum toxin-A may be considered medically necessary for the treatment of patients presenting with the following conditions:

- Spasticity
- Cervical Dystonia (spasmodic torticollis)
- Focal Dystonia
  - Blephorospasm
  - Laryngeal dystonia/spasm
  - Hemifacial spasm
  - Upper extremity essential tremor
  - Upper or lower extremity focal dystonia
  - Motor tics
  - Strabismus
  - Vesicourethral spasm
3.3 Repeat chemodenervations are typically not indicated unless there is documented evidence that all types of improvement noted must be clinically meaningful and should include: functional improvement, clinically meaningful reduction in pain, reduction of the need for treatment of musculoskeletal complications, facilitating ease of care, and/or for improving the general appearance, mobility and/or phonation in patients presenting with spasticity or dystonia for a minimum of eight (8) weeks following the injection(s). Based on the typical response of properly administered chemodenervations injections are typically performed every three (3) months. Injections performed on a more frequent basis may be considered not medically necessary. In addition, more than four (4) injections per region per year may be considered not medically necessary.

3.4 The use of electrical muscle stimulation (95873) or needle electromyography (95874) may be considered medically necessary for guidance in conjunction with chemodenervation.

3.5 Chemodenervations are not without risk, and can expose patients to potential serious complications. As a result, certain patients may not be optimal candidates for chemodenervation. Optimal candidates include those:
   - With a limited number of muscles that need treatment;
   - Who do not have fixed contracture.

In patients who may not fulfill these criteria, the use of chemodenervation may be considered not medically necessary.

3.6 Based on the limited evidence of efficacy and the increased side-effects profile, the use of botulinum toxin type-B may be considered medically necessary only in the management of patients who have become non-responsive to botulinum toxin type-A.

3.7 Chemodenervation are considered not medically necessary for the treatment of:
   - Myofascial trigger points
   - Myofascial tender points (Myofascitis or Fibromyositis or Fibromyalgia)
   - Neck Pain
   - Low Back Pain.

3.8 Triad Healthcare, Inc considers the use of chemodenervation not medically necessary for cosmetic purposes as well as other indications.
4. References

4.1. Scientific:

The following scientific references were utilized in the formulation of this medical policy. Triad Healthcare, Inc. will continue to review clinical evidence surrounding chemodenervations (i.e., botulinum neurotoxin injections) and may modify this policy at a later date based upon the evolution of the published clinical evidence. Should additional scientific studies become available and they are not included in the list, please forward the reference(s) to Triad Healthcare, Inc. so the information can be reviewed by the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Medical Quality Improvement Committee (MQIC) to determine if a modification of the policy is in order.


• Porta M, Maggioni G. Botulinum toxin (BoNT) and back pain. *J Neurol.* 2004;251:115-8.


Scott A. Botulinum toxin injection into extraocular muscles as an alternative to strabismus surgery. *Ophthalmology* 1980; 87:1044-1049.


4.2. Related Triad Medical Policies:
- TMMP 18 - Medical Necessity
- TMMP 15 – Minimal Clinical Progress / Improvement
- TMMP 25 – Use of Electrodiagnostic Testing

**CPT Codes**

This policy relates to the use of the following CPT Codes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Code</th>
<th>Description (AMA CPT Guide)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64612</td>
<td>Chemodenervation of muscle(s); muscle(s) innervated by facial nerve, unilateral (e.g., blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64616</td>
<td>Chemodenervation of muscle(s); neck muscle(s), excluding muscles of the larynx, unilateral (e.g., for cervical dystonia, spasmodic torticollis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64642</td>
<td>Chemodenervation of one extremity, 1-4 muscle(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64646</td>
<td>Chemodenervation of trunk muscle(s); 1-5 muscle(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64647</td>
<td>Chemodenervation of trunk muscle(s); 6 or more muscle(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95867</td>
<td>Needle electromyography; cranial nerve supplied muscle(s), unilateral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95873</td>
<td>Electrical stimulation for guidance in conjunction with chemodenervation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95874</td>
<td>Needle electromyography for guidance in conjunction with chemodenervation (List separately in addition to code from primary procedure)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list may not be all inclusive and is not intended to be used for coding/billing purposes.
Table of Revisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision Date</th>
<th>Modified By</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/20/2015</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Annual Review. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2014</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>CPT code table updated to reflect 2014 changes in the AMA CPT Code Guidebook. Added CPT code 95873 - it is referenced in §3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/03/2013</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Annual Review. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/27/2012</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Annual Review. Added CPT code table. CPT codes referenced in §3.4 added to CPT code table. Updated title of policy from Botulinum Toxin Injections (Chemodenervation) to Chemodenervation (i.e., Botulinum Toxin) Injections. All references to title of policy within the documents were adjusted accordingly. §2.1 language changes to be consistent with policy title change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/09/2011</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Annual Review. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/18/2010</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Annual Review. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/18/2009</td>
<td>Level 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>New medical policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Triad’s Medical Policies are not recommendations for treatment and providers are expected to exercise their clinical judgment in providing the most appropriate care. Health care providers and patients should not rely on these Medical Policies in making health care decisions. These Medical Policies are guidelines and do not constitute an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or guarantee of payment. Applications of Triad’s Medical Policies are determined by the enrollee’s benefit documents and contracts and as such individual benefits must be verified. Determinations of medical necessity apply only if the benefit exists and no contract exclusions are applicable. In the event of a conflict, a participant’s benefit plan document shall supersede the information contained in Triad’s Medical Policies.