



Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Health Plan Advisory 15-10
March 17, 2015

Shared Plan Member Claims - Reimbursement of Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS)

The Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS) is reimbursable by the Medicaid Program as a covered service; however, reimbursement of the device itself is dependent upon approval of the surgeon to perform the procedure. DHH has identified an issue in the processing of hospital Durable Medical Equipment (DME) claims prior to date of service Feb. 1, 2015 for the VNS device.

Shared Plans are responsible for authorization of the surgery by the physician who is to perform the VNS procedure, and Molina is responsible for the hospital DME claim for the device.

Therefore, when a Shared Plan approved or denied an authorization request for the surgery, it is imperative that the Shared Plan provide a copy of the final authorization, to the hospital where the service was performed, which clearly indicates the procedure and the approval of the authorization. The hospital must submit a copy of this authorization along with their hard copy DME claim for the device to Molina for processing. If the physician is not approved to perform the surgical procedure, the hospital will not be reimbursed for the VNS device.

Hospital claims for VNS received by Molina without proper documentation of a valid authorization, will be denied by Molina with edit 191 (PA required).

This procedure should be implemented immediately, as it affects claims with a date of service prior to Feb. 1, 2015. Questions concerning this advisory should be directed to Stephanie W. Young at Stephanie.W.Young@la.gov or 225-342-1461.