

# Fecal Incontinence Evaluation and Treatments



INDEPENDENT CARE HEALTH PLAN

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## Medicare Advantage Medical Coverage Policy

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#### Disclaimer

The Coverage Summaries are reviewed by the iCare Medicare Utilization Management Committee. Policies in this document may be modified by a member's coverage document. Clinical policy is not intended to preempt the judgment of the reviewing medical director or dictate to health care providers how to practice medicine. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests and procedures in a medical coverage policy is for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test, or procedure over another. Clinical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update this policy periodically. References to CPT® codes or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee of claims payment. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any shape or form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without permission from iCare.

## Related Medicare Advantage Medical/Pharmacy Coverage Policies

None

## Related Documents

Please refer to [CMS website](#) for the most current applicable National Coverage Determination (NCD)/ Local Coverage Determination (LCD)/Local Coverage Article (LCA)/CMS Online Manual System/Transmittals.

Type	Title	ID Number	Jurisdiction Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)	Applicable States/Territories
NCD	Electrical Continence Aid	<a href="#">230.15</a>		

Fecal Incontinence Evaluation and Treatments

NCD	Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	<a href="#">280.1</a>		
LCD LCA	Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy Services	<a href="#">L33631</a> <a href="#">A56566</a>	J6 - National Government Services, Inc. (Part A/B MAC) IL, MN, WI  JK - National Government Services, Inc. (Part A/B MAC) CT, NY, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	
LCA	Billing and Coding: Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary and Fecal Incontinence	<a href="#">A55835</a>	J15 - CGS Administrators, LLC (Part A/B MAC)	KY, OH
LCD LCA	Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy Services	<a href="#">L34049</a> <a href="#">A57067</a>	J15 - CGS Administrators, LLC (Part A/B MAC)	KY, OH
LCA	Billing and Coding: Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary and Fecal Incontinence	<a href="#">A53359</a>	JE - Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	CA, HI, NV, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
LCA	Billing and Coding: Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary and Fecal Incontinence	<a href="#">A53017</a>	JF - Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	AK, AZ, ID, MT, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY
LCD LCA	Outpatient Occupational Therapy	<a href="#">L34427</a> <a href="#">A53064</a>	JJ - Palmetto GBA (Part A/B MAC) AL, GA, TN  JM - Palmetto GBA (Part A/B MAC) NC, SC, VA, WV	
LCD LCA	Bowel Management Devices	<a href="#">L36267</a> <a href="#">A54516</a>	DME A - Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC (DME MAC) CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT  DME B - CGS Administrators, LLC (DME MAC) IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, WI  DME C - CGS Administrators, LLC (DME MAC) AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, LA, MS, NM, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV, PR, U.S. VI  DME D - Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC (DME MAC)	

			AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, IA, KS, MO, MT, NE, NV, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
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## Description

Fecal incontinence (FI), also known as bowel incontinence, is the loss of bowel control, which causes stool to leak involuntarily from the rectum. FI can range from the occasional leakage of stool to complete loss of bowel control. FI may also occur only occasionally (eg, with bouts of diarrhea) or it may be chronic or recurring.

Causes include, but may not be limited to:

- Damage to the anal sphincter (eg, childbirth, surgery)
- Damage to the pelvic diaphragm
- Diarrhea
- Fecal impaction
- Illnesses that cause the inability to expand and store fecal matter (eg, inflammatory bowel disease [IBD])
- Injury

## Evaluation

Treatment for FI depends on the type of incontinence and the underlying cause; therefore, prior to treatment for FI, an evaluation must be performed. The initial assessment includes obtaining a history and physical, which may consist of an inspection of the perianal area and a digital rectal exam. Other tests include, but may not be limited to, anorectal manometry, endoscopy, endorectal ultrasound or rectal sensory testing.<sup>36</sup>

## Treatment

Examples of **FI treatments** include, but may not be limited to:

**Artificial anal sphincter** (eg, **Acticon Neosphincter**) is an implantable, fluid filled device that consists of an inflatable silicon cuff, a pressure-regulating balloon and a control pump, which reportedly maintains continence by using the pressure of the fluid filled cuff to occlude the anal canal. When there is a need to defecate (bowel movement), the individual squeezes and releases the pump mechanism, which releases the compressive force around the anal canal.

**Biofeedback** is therapy that utilizes sensors to help the individual identify and contract the anal sphincter muscles, which help maintain continence.

**Defecation programs (bowel training)** are designed to help the individual who has difficulties setting a schedule for sitting on the toilet at a regular time every day after a meal. This training is designed to help incontinence by regularly emptying the bowels.

**Injectable bulking agents** (eg, **Solesta**) involves the injection of collagen, autologous fat or other materials into the anal sphincter area to increase the surface area, which purportedly provides a better seal for the anal canal.

**Nonimplantable muscle stimulators** (eg, **Ileva Digital Therapeutic System**) are devices that reportedly provide pelvic muscle stimulation and biofeedback without implantation of electrodes to aid in the treatment of fecal incontinence. These devices may be combined with a smartphone app that reportedly transmits real-time data of pelvic floor muscle training.

**Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS)** (eg, **Urgent PC, Nuro Percutaneous Neuromodulation System [PTNM]**), also known as posterior tibial nerve stimulation, involves the use of nonimplanted electrodes which produce stimulation to the tibial nerve that purportedly travels to the sacral nerve plexus to control FI.

**Radiofrequency ablation** (eg, **Secca System**) is a minimally invasive procedure that uses alternating electrical current to cause controlled heating of the tissue in the anal sphincter, which reportedly remodels the treated tissue by stimulating the formation of connective tissue.

**Rectal catheters and rectal inserts** are being investigated for use in a bedridden, immobilized or incontinent individual. Examples of the systems includes, but may not be limited to, include the **Qora Stool Management System**, which is comprised of a self-expanding indwelling diverter that anchors in the anorectal junction (without a balloon). It is designed to collapse and expand during peristaltic rectal contractions.<sup>46</sup> The **Renew Anal Insert** is a self-inserted silicone insert that purportedly prevents bowel leakage by resting against the rectum. Another system under study (eg, **Contix Fecal Incontinence Management System**) is a disposable catheter device that utilizes a balloon that is placed via an injector into the anorectal junction and filled with air. The air is deflated for removal. This device is not currently approved by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

**Rectal control system for vaginal insertion** (eg, **Eclipse system**) is a device that includes an inflatable balloon that is placed in the vagina, which upon inflation exerts pressure on the vaginal wall supposedly closing off the rectum. Reportedly, bowel evacuation is completed by deflating the device and re-inflating using an external pump.

**Sacral nerve stimulation** (eg, **Axonics Sacral Neuromodulation System, InterStim II, InterStim Micro, InterStimX**) involves the implantation of electrodes at the sacral nerve to improve rectal sensation and anal sphincter muscle control.

**Stem cells, specifically adipose tissue-derived stem cells, autologous myoblasts, mesenchymal stem cells** are being investigated for the treatment of FI. Purportedly, the injection of stem cells during surgical repair of FI stimulates the formation of granulation tissue, leading to regeneration of the anal sphincter muscles.

**Surgical treatment** may be performed if there is pelvic floor or anal sphincter muscle injuries. Procedures include, but may not be limited to:

- **Colostomy** is the construction of an artificial opening from the colon through the abdominal wall, which bypasses a diseased portion of the lower intestine and permits the passage of stool to a bag outside of the body; typically used as the last attempt to correct FI.
- **Muscle transposition** is a surgical procedure that uses muscles from another area of the body to encircle and strengthen the anal canal (eg, gluteal or gracilis muscles [dynamic graciloplasty]).
- **Sphincteroplasty** is utilized to repair a defect in the sphincter muscle in which the two ends of the muscle are cut and overlapped onto one another and then sutured into place to restore the complete circle of muscle.

**Transanal electrical stimulation** utilizes electrical stimulation that is applied to the anal canal to supposedly stimulate muscle contraction.

### Coverage Determination

*iCare follows the CMS requirements that only allows coverage and payment for services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member except as specifically allowed by Medicare.*

*In interpreting or supplementing the criteria above and in order to determine medical necessity consistently, iCare may consider the criteria contained in the following:*

**Diagnostic testing for fecal incontinence** will be considered medically reasonable and necessary for the following:

- Anorectal manometry; **OR**
- Anorectal ultrasonography; **OR**
- Rectal sensory testing

**Conservative management** will be considered medically reasonable and necessary, which includes, but may not be limited to:

- Biofeedback; **OR**
- Defecation programs/bowel training; **OR**
- Diet modification; **OR**

- Pelvic floor physical therapy; **OR**
- Pharmacotherapy

**Sacral nerve stimulation** (eg, Axonics Sacral Neuromodulation System, InterStim II, InterStim Micro and InterStimX) will be considered medically reasonable and necessary when the following requirements are met:

- Absence of [contraindications](#); **AND**
- Testing confirms a diagnosis of FI; **AND**
- Failure of, contraindication to or intolerance of [conservative management](#); **AND**
- Trial test stimulation that demonstrates 50% or greater improvement in incontinence symptoms during a 14-day trial period.<sup>1,4</sup>

**Removal of a SNS device** will be considered medically reasonable and necessary when the following requirements are met:

- A previously implanted device and/or its associated components cause complications or unintended negative outcomes (eg, adverse change in bowel function, infection, new pain, undesirable stimulation) for the individual

**SNS replacement** will be considered medically reasonable and necessary when the following requirements are met:

- Previously implanted device and/or its associated components are no longer functioning appropriately (eg, defective pulse generator, lead migration) and are no longer under warranty; **AND**
- Absence of [contraindications](#); **AND**
- FDA-approved device is being utilized as the replacement

**Surgical treatments for FI** will be considered medically reasonable and necessary when the following requirements are met:

- Anal sphincter repair (eg, sphincteroplasty) for the following indications:
  - Anal sphincter injury; **AND**

- Failure of, contraindication to or intolerance of [conservative management](#); **OR**
- Colostomy for the following indications:
  - Failure of, contraindication to or intolerance of [conservative management](#) of a minimum of 2 therapies; **AND**
  - Failure of or not a candidate for minimally invasive surgical interventions (eg, sacral nerve stimulation) or sphincteroplasty

*The use of the criteria in this Medicare Advantage Medical Coverage Policy provides clinical benefits highly likely to outweigh any clinical harms. Services that do not meet the criteria above are not medically necessary and thus do not provide a clinical benefit. Medically unnecessary services carry risks of adverse outcomes and may interfere with the pursuit of other treatments which have demonstrated efficacy.*

## Coverage Limitations

[US Government Publishing Office. Electronic code of federal regulations: part 411 – 42 CFR § 411.15 - Particular services excluded from coverage](#)

The following **incontinence items** will not be considered a benefit (statutory exclusion):

- Incontinence collection systems (eg, perianal fecal collection pouches);
- Incontinence undergarments (eg, briefs, diapers);
- Rectal catheters (eg, Contix Fecal Incontinence Management System, Qora Stool Management Kit);
- Rectal inserts (eg, Renew Insert)

These treatments and services fall within the Medicare program's statutory exclusion that prohibits payment for items and services that have not been demonstrated to be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury (§1862(a)(1) of the Act).

The following **fecal incontinence treatments** will not be considered medically reasonable and necessary:

- Adipose tissue-derived stem cells
- Autologous myoblasts or mesenchymal stem cell injections
- Nonimplantable muscle stimulators
- Transanal electrical stimulation

A review of the current medical literature shows that there is no evidence to determine that these services are standard medical treatments. There is an absence of randomized, blinded clinical studies examining benefit and long-term clinical outcomes establishing the value of these services in clinical management.

The following **fecal incontinence treatments** will not be considered medically reasonable and necessary:

- Artificial anal sphincter (eg, Acticon Neosphincter); **OR**
- Injectable bulking agents (eg, Solesta); **OR**
- Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation (eg, Urgent PC); **OR**
- Rectal control system for vaginal insertion (eg, Eclipse system); **OR**
- Sacral nerve stimulation (eg, Axonics Sacral Neuromodulation System, InterStim II, InterStim Micro and InterStimX) if the following contraindications are present:
  - 17 years of age or younger; **OR**
  - Presence of anorectal malformation (eg, congenital anorectal malformation; defects of the external anal sphincter over 60 degrees; visible sequelae of pelvic radiation; active anal abscesses and fistulae and/or chronic inflammatory bowel disease); **OR**
  - Bilateral stimulation; **OR**
  - Individual not capable of operating the device: **OR**
  - Pregnancy; **OR**
  - Presence of progressive, systemic neurologic diseases (eg, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease)<sup>51,52</sup>; **OR**
- Transanal radiofrequency therapy (eg, Secca System)

A review of the current medical literature shows that the evidence is insufficient to determine that this service is standard medical treatment. There remains an absence of randomized, blinded clinical studies examining benefit and long-term clinical outcomes establishing the value of this service in clinical management.

### **Summary of Evidence**

#### ***Artificial Anal Sphincter***

Even though the use of an artificial sphincter device has been correlated with clinical improvements for the treatment of FI, its use is limited by complications, which include explantation in up to one-third of individuals.<sup>37</sup> Many of these devices have shown unacceptable complication or explantation rates and have only been evaluated in small numbers of individuals.<sup>1</sup>

#### ***Injectable Bulking Agents***



Data regarding the long-term effects of sphincter bulking injections are lacking.<sup>2</sup> A total of 24 studies have been published that describe a variation of injection sites, the implanted materials and techniques. However, the results have been inconsistent, and interpretation was challenging due to the multiple compounds and injection techniques that were utilized.<sup>6</sup>

### ***Percutaneous Tibial Nerve Stimulation (PTNS)***

Evidence is insufficient, conflicting or poor and there is insufficient evidence to determine net benefit versus harms; additional research is recommended.<sup>29</sup> Until further evidence is available, PTNS should not be used for the treatment of fecal incontinence in clinical practice.<sup>4</sup> PTNS is not approved for the treatment of fecal incontinence.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Rectal Control System for Vaginal Insertion***

In a study of 61 women who were fitted with the Eclipse device, an 85% success rate was reported at a three-month follow-up. However, limited studies prevent determination of efficacy in the long-term.<sup>37</sup>

### ***Sacral Nerve Stimulation***

According to the manufacturer of the device listed above, the indications are considered either contraindications or warnings.<sup>30</sup>

### ***Transanal Radiofrequency Therapy***

Due to the limited available data, alternative methods should be pursued before considering radiofrequency delivery.<sup>6</sup> Radiofrequency should not be offered routinely as there is a lack of high-quality studies to support its use.<sup>2</sup>

## **Coding Information**

Any codes listed on this policy are for informational purposes only. Do not rely on the accuracy and inclusion of specific codes. Inclusion of a code does not guarantee coverage and/or reimbursement for a service or procedure.

<b>CPT® Code(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
38240	Hematopoietic progenitor cell (HPC); allogeneic transplantation per donor	
38241	Hematopoietic progenitor cell (HPC); autologous transplantation	
64561	Percutaneous implantation of neurostimulator electrode array; sacral nerve (transforaminal placement) including image guidance, if performed	
64581	Incision for implantation of neurostimulator electrode array; sacral nerve (transforaminal placement)	
64585	Revision or removal of peripheral neurostimulator electrode array	

64590	Insertion or replacement of peripheral or gastric neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling	
64595	Revision or removal of peripheral or gastric neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver	
90913	Biofeedback training, perineal muscles, anorectal or urethral sphincter, including EMG and/or manometry, when performed; each additional 15 minutes of one-on-one physician or other qualified health care professional contact with the patient (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	
CPT® Category III Code(s)	Description	Comments
No code(s) identified		
HCPCS Code(s)	Description	Comments
A4290	Sacral nerve stimulation test lead, each	
A4330	Perianal fecal collection pouch with adhesive, each	
A4335	Incontinence supply; miscellaneous	
A4337	Incontinence supply, rectal insert, any type, each	
A4520	Incontinence garment, any type, (eg, brief, diaper), each	<b>Not Covered</b>
A4553	Nondisposable underpads, all sizes	<b>Not Covered</b>
A4554	Disposable underpads, all sizes	<b>Not Covered</b>
A4563	Rectal control system for vaginal insertion, for long term use, includes pump and all supplies and accessories, any type each	
C1767	Generator, neurostimulator (implantable), nonrechargeable	
C1778	Lead, neurostimulator (implantable)	
C1883	Adaptor/extension, pacing lead or neurostimulator lead (implantable)	
C1897	Lead, neurostimulator test kit (implantable)	
G0283	Electrical stimulation (unattended), to one or more areas for indication(s) other than wound care, as part of a therapy plan of care	
L8680	Implantable neurostimulator electrode, each	
L8681	Patient programmer (external) for use with implantable programmable neurostimulator pulse generator, replacement only	
L8682	Implantable neurostimulator radiofrequency receiver	
L8683	Radiofrequency transmitter (external) for use with implantable neurostimulator radiofrequency receiver	

L8684	Radiofrequency transmitter (external) for use with implantable sacral root neurostimulator receiver for bowel and bladder management, replacement	
L8685	Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, single array, rechargeable, includes extension	<b>Not Covered</b>
L8686	Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, single array, nonrechargeable, includes extension	<b>Not Covered</b>
L8687	Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, dual array, rechargeable, includes extension	<b>Not Covered</b>
L8688	Implantable neurostimulator pulse generator, dual array, nonrechargeable, includes extension	<b>Not Covered</b>
L8689	External recharging system for battery (internal) for use with implantable neurostimulator, replacement only	
L8695	External recharging system for battery (external) for use with implantable neurostimulator, replacement only	

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## Change Summary

- Click or tap to enter a date. New Policy.
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