

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 15.3

STEREOTACTIC IMPLANTATION OF DEPTH ELECTRODES

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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

Stereotactic implantation of depth electrodes may be considered for cost sharing when all of the following criteria are met:

- A. The patient's seizures are intractable to medical therapy.
- B. Prior diagnostic studies suggest, but do not confirm, the presence of a localized seizure focus; and
- C. The seizure focus is located in an area of the brain amenable to surgical resection. (Refer to [Chapter 1, Section 22.4](#) for policy regarding electrocorticogram at surgery.)
- D. Stereotactic implantation of depth electrodes for deep brain stimulation, in accordance with labeled indication on or after the day of FDA approval of the device, may be cost-shared.
- E. 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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