

**Policy: MP095**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Craniosacral Therapy**

### Applicable Lines of Business

<b>Commercial</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>CHIP</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>ACA</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>X</b>		

### I. Policy: Craniosacral Therapy

#### II. Purpose/Objective:

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Craniosacral Therapy

#### III. Responsibility:

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management

#### IV. Required Definitions

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

#### V. Additional Definitions

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

- a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
- b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
- c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
- d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
- e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

#### Medicaid Business Segment

Medically Necessary — A service, item, procedure, or level of care that is necessary for the proper treatment or management of an illness, injury, or disability is one that:

- Will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- Will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.

- Will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for Members of the same age

**DESCRIPTION:**

Craniosacral therapy is based on the theory that movement restrictions at the cranial sutures of the skull negatively affect rhythmic impulses conveyed through the cerebrospinal fluid from the cranium to the sacrum. Proponents maintain that removing restrictions of the flow of cerebrospinal fluid via craniosacral osteopathic manipulative techniques improves symptoms or problems.

**EXCLUSIONS:** The Plan does **NOT** provide coverage for *craniosacral therapy* for any indication because it is considered **experimental, investigational or unproven**. There is insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed published medical literature to establish the effectiveness of this treatment on health outcomes when compared to established treatments or technologies

**Medicaid Business Segment:**

Any requests for services, that do not meet criteria set in the PARP, may be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.**

**CODING ASSOCIATED WITH: Craniosacral Therapy**

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.*

**HCPCS Codes:**

- 97039 Unlisted modality
- 97799 Unlisted physical medicine/rehabilitation service or procedure

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) © American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.

**LINE OF BUSINESS:**

**Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD's and NCD's will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.**

**REFERENCES:**

Rogers JS, Witt PL, "The Controversy of Cranial Bone Motion", *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy*, 26(2):95-103; Aug. 1997.

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Green C, Martin CW, Bassett K, Kazanjian A, "A Systematic Review of Craniosacral Therapy: Biological Plausibility, Assessment Reliability and Clinical Effectiveness", *Complementary Therapies in Medicine*, 7(4):201-207; Dec. 1999.

Moran RW, Gibbons P, "Intraexaminer and Interexaminer Reliability for Palpation of the Cranial Rhythmic Impulse at the Head and Sacrum", *Journal of Manipulative & Physiological Therapeutics*, 24(3):183-190, Mar-Apr 2001.

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Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, British Columbia Office of Health Technology Assessment, A Systematic Review and Critical Appraisal of the Scientific Evidence on Craniosacral Therapy, May 1999

American Cancer Society, Craniosacral Therapy, 3/7/2011

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Białoszewski D, Bebelski M, Lewandowska M, et al. Utility of craniosacral therapy in treatment of patients with non-specific low back pain. Preliminary report. *Ortop Traumatol Rehabil.* 2014 Nov-Dec;16(6):605-15.

Haller H, Lauche R, Cramer H, et al. Craniosacral therapy for the treatment of chronic neck pain: a randomized sham-controlled trial. *Clin J Pain.* 2016 May;32(5):441-9.

Jäkel A, von Hauenschild P. A systematic review to evaluate the clinical benefits of craniosacral therapy. *Complement Ther Med.* 2012 Dec;20(6):456-65.

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Castejón-Castejón M, Murcia-González MA, Todri J, et al. Treatment of infant colic with craniosacral therapy. A randomized controlled trial. *Complement Ther Med.* 2022 Dec;71:102885

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This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 1/03

**Revised:** 01/04 Coding; 1/06 (grammatical change)

**Reviewed:** 1/05; 1/07, 1/08, 1/09, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17, 12/17, 12/18, 12/19, 12/20, 12/21, 12/22, 12/23

Geisinger Health Plan may refer collectively to health care coverage sponsors Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, unless otherwise noted. Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

Coverage for experimental or investigational treatments, services and procedures is specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Unproven services outside of an approved clinical trial are also specifically excluded under the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. This policy does not expand coverage to services or items specifically excluded from coverage in the member's certificate with Geisinger Health Plan. Additional information can be found in MP015 Experimental, Investigational or Unproven Services.

Prior authorization and/or pre-certification requirements for services or items may apply. Pre-certification lists may be found in the member's contract specific benefit document. Prior authorization requirements can be found at <https://www.geisinger.org/health-plan/providers/ghp-clinical-policies>

Please be advised that the use of the logos, service marks or names of Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company on a marketing, press releases or any communication piece regarding the contents of this medical policy is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of Geisinger Health Plan. Additionally, the above medical policy does not confer any endorsement by Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company regarding the medical service, medical device or medical lab test described under this medical policy.