

**National Coverage Determination (NCD)**

# Induced Lesions of Nerve Tracts

**160.1**

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## Tracking Information

**Publication Number**

100-3

**Manual Section Number**

160.1

**Manual Section Title**

Induced Lesions of Nerve Tracts

**Version Number**

1

**Effective Date of this Version**

This is a longstanding national coverage determination. The effective date of this version has not been posted.

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## Description Information

**Benefit Category**

Physicians' Services

**Please Note:** This may not be an exhaustive list of all applicable Medicare benefit categories for this item or service.

**Indications and Limitations of Coverage**


Surgically induced lesions of nerve tracts which involve destruction of nerve tissue are primarily indicated for controlling the chronic or acute pain arising from conditions such as terminal cancer or lumbar degenerative arthritis. Induced lesions of nerve tracts may be produced by surgical cutting of the nerve (rhizolysis), chemical destruction of the nerve, or by creation of a radio-frequency lesion (electrocautery). Accordingly, program payment may be

made for these denervation procedures when used in selected cases (concurrent in by the Medicare Administrative Contractor’s medical staff) to treat chronic pain.

Note that these procedures differ from those employing implanted electrodes and associated equipment to control pain in that the nerve fibers are ablated rather than stimulated and no electronic equipment is required by the patient after the operation.

# Additional Information

Other Versions

Title	Version	Effective Between	
Induced Lesions of Nerve Tracts	1	01/01/1966 - N/A	You are here