

Clinical Policy: Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring

Reference Number: QCP.CP.033

Last Review Date: 10-8-25

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See <u>Important Reminder</u> at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring (IOM) describes a variety of procedures that are used to monitor the integrity of neural pathways during high-risk neurosurgical, orthopedic, vascular and other surgeries that may place the nervous system at risk for injury. While it is clear that IOM can identify nervous system damage, there is little or no evidence that IOM can prevent damage in most situations. All requests for on-site IOM require pre-authorization.

Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of QualChoice Health Plan® that onsite intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring is **medically necessary** for the following indications:

- When a licensed physician trained in clinical neurophysiology (e.g., neurologist, physiatrist), who is not a member of the surgical team performs the dedicated/exclusive monitoring while in attendance in the operating room (or onsite) throughout the pertinent portions of the procedure. Pre-authorization is required for intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring to ensure the appropriate criteria are met.
- 2. Services involving the use of remote IOM (95941 or G0453) are not covered. This coverage exclusion is based on not meeting the standard of care for patients having high-risk procedures due to quality/safety concerns. This is not comparable to a readily available on-site physician who is dedicated to monitoring a specific patient in the operating room without distractions from other patients (which is a covered service subject to prior authorization to confirm medical necessity).
- The technical components of these services are considered to be included in the facility fee, just as the technical components of intraoperative radiological testing are.
- 4. Intraoperative somatosensory evoked potentials (SSEPs) with or without motor evoked potentials (MEPs) may be appropriate for:
 - a. Spinal surgeries at levels C1-L2, where there is documentation of significant risk of injury to the spinal cord, such as correction of scoliosis, removal of spinal tumors, or surgery as a result of traumatic injury to the spinal cord;



- Intracranial surgical procedures, such as surgery for intracranial AV malformations, cerebral aneurysms, or surgery as a result of traumatic brain injury;
- c. Vascular surgeries that put the central nervous system at risk, such as surgery of the aortic arch or carotids where there is risk of cerebral ischemia, or distal aortic procedures where there is risk of spinal cord ischemia.
- 5. Intraoperative electroencephalography (EEG) is considered medically necessary for monitoring cerebral function during carotid artery surgery or intracranial vascular surgical procedures.
- 6. Intraoperative visual evoked potentials (VEPs) are considered medically necessary for any surgical procedure performed on or near the optic nerve, cortex, or chiasm.
- 7. Intraoperative brainstem auditory evoked potentials (BAEPs) are considered medically necessary for any surgical procedure performed on or near the auditory nerve, inner ear, or brainstem.
- 8. Intraoperative electromyography (EMG) may be appropriate for monitoring the facial nerve during any of the following intracranial surgeries:
 - a. Decompression of the facial nerve
 - b. Surgery for acoustic neuroma, congenital auricular lesions, or cranial based lesions
 - c. Excision of facial neuromas
 - d. Vestibular neurectomy for Meniere's disease

Background

While it is clear that IOM can identify nervous system damage, there is less evidence that IOM can prevent damage in most situations.

EMG Monitoring of Facial Nerve:

Harner and associates (1987) compared the results of patients who underwent acoustic neuroma resection with (n = 48) or without (n = 48) intraoperative monitoring of facial nerve. They reported that anatomical preservation of the facial nerve in patients with large tumors was substantially improved in the monitored patients (67 %) when compared with those without monitoring (33 %). Although no difference was noted in facial nerve function in the two groups of patients immediately post-operatively, the degree of improvement in the monitored group exceeded that observed for those who were not monitored at 3 months, particularly in those with medium-sized and large tumors.

Kwartler and colleagues (1991) compared a group of monitored trans-labyrinthine acoustic tumor removals (n = 89) to a similar un-monitored group (n = 155) in regard to facial nerve function. Function was assessed immediately postoperatively at time of discharge, and at 1 year post-operatively using the House six-point scale. Results were grouped as satisfactory, intermediate, or poor, and were analyzed by tumor size. Facial nerve results were better at all



time intervals in the monitored groups, although the difference was not statistically significant at the 1-year interval. There was no difference between monitored and un-monitored patients in the subgroups with tumors smaller than 2.5 cm in diameter. The findings of this study

Coding Implications

Supported the usefulness of intra-operative facial nerve monitoring in improving facial nerve results, especially in larger tumors.

Olds et al (1997) stated that "routine facial nerve monitoring is not considered the standard of care in most communities; however risk of facial nerve injury appears to be greatly reduced when this adjunctive technique is employed".

Fabregas and Gomar (2001) noted that facial nerve monitoring for surgery of acoustic neuromas should be considered an absolute standard of care in neurosurgery. This is in agreement with the observation of Ingelmo et al (2003) who stated that intra-operative EMG monitoring of the facial nerve should be used routinely in acoustic neuroma surgery to reduce the degree of post-operative neurological impairment.

Wilson et al (2003) assessed the cost-effectiveness of intra-operative facial nerve monitoring during middle ear or mastoid surgery. The authors concluded that facial nerve monitoring is cost-effective, and its routine use should be adopted to reduce the risk of iatrogenic facial nerve injury during otologic surgery.

The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (1998) recognized the proven effectiveness of neurophysiologic monitoring of the facial nerve (7th CN), which may minimize the risk of injury to the nerve during surgical procedures in which the nerve is vulnerable due to site of lesion or extent of disease.

The American Academy of Neurology (1990; Lopez, 2004) stated that brainstem AEPs and cranial nerve EMG monitoring is safe and effective during surgeries performed in the region of the brainstem or inner ear. Nevertheless, clinical situations need to be chosen carefully, avoiding those in which the nervous system is only at low risk.

The facial nerve is often embedded by fibrous tissues in recurrent tumor of the Parotid gland. Studies have suggested that facial nerve-monitored patients undergoing parotidectomy for recurrent tumors has a 0 to 4 % risk of permanent Facial paralysis. Dulguerov et al (1999) analyzed the incidence and factors responsible for post-parotidectomy facial nerve paralysis when the surgery is performed with the routine use of facial nerve monitoring (n = 70). The authors concluded that despite a stringent accounting of post-operative facial nerve deficits, the data compared favorably to the literature with or without the use of monitoring. An overall incidence of 27 % for temporary facial paralysis and 4 % for permanent facial paralysis was found. Although the lack of a control group



precluded definitive conclusions on the role of EMG- based facial nerve monitoring in routine parotidectomy, the authors found its use very helpful. Brennan et al (2001) studied the effectiveness of continuous intra-operative EMG monitoring in patients who underwent parotidectomies, thyroidectomies, and parathyroidectomies (44 facial nerves, and 96 recurrent laryngeal nerves). These investigators concluded that continuous intra-operative nerve monitoring was associated with extremely low rates of temporary and permanent nerve paralysis. However, these reports were not randomized, controlled studies. Therefore, it remains unclear whether facial nerve monitoring significantly lowers the risk of facial nerve injury.

In a retrospective, case-controlled study, Terrell et al (1997) evaluated whether continuous facial nerve monitoring during parotidectomy is associated with a lower incidence of facial nerve paresis or paralysis compared with parotidectomy without monitoring (n = 117). The authors found that continuous EMG monitoring of facial muscle during primary parotidectomy reduced the incidence of short-term postoperative facial paresis, but did not change the incidence of permanent paralysis. Furthermore, Witt (1998) compared post-operative facial nerve function after monitored (n = 20) and unmonitored (n = 33) parotid surgical procedures. No patient showed permanent facial paralysis. In 9 patients (17 %), transient nerve paralysis developed: 5 (15 %) of the 33 patients who underwent lateral Parotidectomy without the use of a nerve-integrity monitor and 4 (20 %) of the 20 patients who underwent lateral parotidectomy with the use of a nerve-integrity monitor. Therefore, the clinical value of facial nerve monitoring during Parotidectomy is still in question and its routine use in clinical setting awaits findings of well-designed randomized controlled studies.

Laryngeal nerve monitoring:

During thyroidectomy, the RLN is visually identified and dissected away from the Thyroid gland. It has been advocated that intra-operative knowledge of the status of the nerve after dissection could potentially provide the surgeon with important decision-making information. However, it has not been established that intraoperative EMG monitoring of the RLN reduces the incidence of RLN injury during Thyroidectomy. There are studies that have calculated the positive and negative predictive values of RLN monitoring during thyroid surgery. Most recently, Beldi and co-workers (2004) reported that the negative predictive value of intraoperative RLN monitoring was 99 %, but the positive predictive value was only 33%. These results are similar to those of Otto and Cochran (2002) who reported a negative predictive value of 98.6 % and a positive predictive value of 33.3 %. Beldi et al (2004) concluded that although an intact nerve can be verified by RLN monitoring, the loss of nerve function cannot be reliably identified, and that the incidence of RLN lesions was not lowered by intra-operative monitoring. This is in agreement with the findings of Robertson et al (2004) who reported that there were no statistically significant differences in RLN paralysis, paresis, or total injury rates between control and continuous laryngeal nerve integrity monitoring among patients who underwent thyroidectomy (n = 165). In a prospective study (n = 328 patients with 502 nerves at risk), Hermann et al (2004) examined the ability of neuromonitoring to predict post-operative outcome in



patients undergoing thyroid surgery for different indications. These authors concluded that neuromonitoring is useful for identifying the RLN, in particular if the anatomical situation is complicated by prior surgery, large tissue masses, aberrant nerve course. However, neuromonitoring does not reliably predict post-operative outcome. Thus, the value of intraoperative EMG monitoring of the RLN has not been established. The NICE (2008) assessment reported that four non-randomized studies of 16,448, 684, 639 and 136 patients (29,998, 1043, 1000 and 190 nerves) reported permanent rates of vocal cord paralysis ranging from 0% to 2% in the intraoperative nerve monitoring groups, compared with 0% to 1% in the control groups (visual recurrent laryngeal nerve identification or no recurrent laryngeal nerve identification). No statistically significant differences were seen between procedures undertaken with or without intraoperative nerve monitoring. The NICE assessment also found that three case series of 328, 288 and 171 patients reported rates of permanent vocal cord paralysis using intraoperative nerve monitoring in 3% (15/502), 1% (6/429) and 1% (2/271) of recurrent laryngeal nerves, respectively. The NICE (2008) assessment also indicated that four nonrandomized studies of 684, 639, 165 and 136 patients (1043, 1000, 236 and 190 nerves) reported rates of transient vocal cord paralysis ranging from 3% to 5% in the intraoperative nerve monitoring groups, compared with 3% to 4% in the control groups (none were statistically significant). The NICE assessment stated that another non-randomized study reported that vocal cord immobility was detected at 3month follow-up in 6% (6/104) of patients when intraoperative nerve monitoring was used and 5% (5/100) of patients when intraoperative nerve monitoring was not used (p = 0.55). The three case series of 328, 288 and 171 patients reported rates of transient recurrent Laryngeal nerve palsy as 9% (43/502), 9% (37/429) and 5% (13/271), respectively.

EMG Monitoring of Other Cranial Nerves:

Schlake et al (2001) reported that EMG is effective as a mapping tool for intraoperative localization and identification of ocular motor nerves -- the oculomotor nerve (3rd CN) and the abduces nerve (6th CN) in skull base surgery. However, the predictive value of conventional neurophysiological parameters for clinical outcomes appears to be rather poor. Further investigations on a larger number of patients are thus needed to develop new quantification techniques which enable an intra-operative prediction of ocular motor nerve deficits. More studies are also needed to extend this technique to the trochlear nerve (4th CN). Furthermore, in a review on the electrophysiological examination of CNs, Vial and Bouhour (2004) stated that intra-operative monitoring of various CNs can be useful but techniques still need to be validated.

There are no controlled studies that examined whether EMG monitoring of the Oculomotor, trochlear, and abduces nerves during surgery in the middle cranial

Fossa reduces the risk of post-operative ophthalmoplegia. Moreover, although there are reports of monitoring, either alone or in combination, of Glossopharyngeal, laryngeal branches of the vagus (e.g., the superior laryngeal nerve and the recurrent laryngeal nerve), spinal accessory, and hypoglossal nerves during skull base surgeries such as surgical



resection of tumors in the region of the foramen magnum, jugular foramen, hypoglossal foramen, and clivus, there are no controlled data to indicate that the risk of CN injury is reduced by monitoring (Harper, 2004). Thus, the clinical value of intra-operative monitoring of the oculomotor, trochlear, abduces, glossopharyngeal, laryngeal branches of the Vagus, spinal accessory, and hypoglossal nerves has not been established.

EMG in spinal surgery:

In a review on intra-operative EMG monitoring during thoracolumbar spinal surgery, Holland (1998) stated that this approach has a number of potential limitations, including: (i) EMG is sensitive to blunt lumbosacral nerve root irritation or injury, but may provide misleading results with "clean" nerve root transaction, (ii) EMG must be recorded from muscles belonging to myotomes appropriate for the nerve roots considered at risk from surgery, (iii) EMG can be effective only with careful monitoring and titration of pharmacological neuromuscular junction blockade, (iv) when transpedicular instrumentation is stimulated, an exposed nerve root should be stimulated directly as a positive control whenever possible, (v) Pedicle holes and screws should be stimulated with single shocks at low stimulus intensities when pharmacological neuromuscular blockade is excessive, and (vi) chronically compressed nerve roots that have undergone axonotmesis (Wallerian degeneration) have higher thresholds for activation from electrical and mechanical stimulation. Hence, whenever axonotmetic nerve root injury is suspected, the stimulus thresholds for transpedicular holes and screws must be specifically compared with those required for the direct activation of the adjacent nerve root (and not published guideline threshold values).

Krassioukov, et al. (2004) examined the neurological outcomes after complex Lumbosacral surgery in patients undergoing multi-modality neurophysiological monitoring. A total of 61 patients were consecutively enrolled in this study. These subjects underwent complex intraand extra-dural lumbosacral procedures with concomitant intra-operative EMG monitoring of the lower-limb muscles, external anal and urethral sphincters (EAS and EUS), and lower-limb SSEP. Long-term (minimum of 2 years) clinical follow-up data were obtained in all cases. Most subjects were treated for spinal/spinal cord tumors (61 %) or adult tethered cord syndrome (25 %). Recordable lower-extremity SSEP were reported in 54 patients (89 %). New post-operative neurological deficits occurred in only 3 patients (4.9%), and remained persistent in only 1 patient (1.6 %) at long-term follow-up examination. In only 1 of these cases was a significant decrease in SSEP amplitude detected. Spontaneous EMG activity was observed in the lower extremity muscles and/or EAS and EUS in 51 cases (84 %). Intra-operatively, EMG demonstrated activity only in the EUS in 5 % of patients and only in the EAS in 28 %. In 7 patients (11 %) spontaneous intra-operative EMG activity was observed in both the EAS and the EUS; however, in only 3 of these cases was EMG activity recorded in both sphincters simultaneously. In addition to spontaneously recorded EMG activity, electrically evoked EMG activity was also used as an intra-operative adjunct. A bipolar stimulating electrode was used to identify functional neural tissue before undertaking microsurgical dissection in 58 individuals (95 %). In the majority of these patients, evoked EMG activity occurred either in one (33 %) or in two



muscles (9 %) simultaneously. The presence of electrically evoked EMG activity in structures encountered during micro dissection altered the plan of treatment in 24 cases (42 %). The investigators concluded that the combined SSEP and EMG monitoring of lower-limb muscles, EAS, and EUS is a practical and reliable method for obtaining optimal electrophysiological feedback during complex neurosurgical procedures involving the conus medullaris and cauda equina. Analysis of the results indicates that these intra-operative adjunctive modalities positively influence decision making with regard to microsurgery and reduce the risk of perioperative neurological complications. Moreover, the authors noted that validation of the clinical value of these approaches, however, will require further assessment in a larger prospective cohort of patients.

In a review on electrophysiological intra-operative monitoring for spinal surgeries, Slimp (2004) stated that the advent of equipment capable of performing SSEP, MEP, and EMG in a multi-plexed fashion, and in a timely manner brings a new level of monitoring that far exceeds the previous basic monitoring done with SSEP only. However, the author noted that whether this more comprehensive monitoring will result in greater protection of the nervous system awaits future analysis. It is also interesting to note that when Erickson and co-workers (2005) from the technology assessment unit of the McGill University Health Center developed a report on the use of intra-operative neurophysiological monitoring during spinal surgery, they only examined the use of SSEP and MEP. These investigators recommended that combined

SSEP/MEP should be available for all cases of spinal surgery for which there is a risk of injury to the spinal cord.

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons` guidelines for the performance of fusion procedures for degenerative disease of the lumbar spine (Resnick, et al., 2005) stated that there does not appear to be support for the hypothesis that any type of intra-operative monitoring improves patient outcomes after spinal surgery such as lumbar decompression or fusion procedures for degenerative spinal disease.

SSEPs and MEPs:

Magnetic stimulation of the brain and spine elicits so-called motor evoked potentials (MEPs). The latency of the motor responses can be measured, and central conduction time can be estimated by comparing the latency of the responses elicited by cerebral and spinal stimulation. Abnormalities have been described in patients with a variety of central disorders including multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke, and certain degenerative disorders. An assessment by the McGill University Health Centre on use of intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring during spinal surgery stated that there is sufficient evidence to support the conclusion that intraoperative spinal monitoring using SSEPs and MEPs during surgical procedures that involve risk of spinal cord injury is an effective procedure that is capable of substantially diminishing this risk (Erickson et al, 2005). The report explained that intra-operative spinal cord injury during spinal surgery



generally compromises both motor and somatosensory pathways; therefore the use of both of these independent techniques in parallel has been proposed and is seen as a safeguard should one of the monitoring techniques fail. Combination of SSEP monitoring with MEP monitoring is also proposed to reduce false positive results, and eliminate the need for the wake-up test. The assessment identified 11 studies, all case series, of the combined use of SSEPs and MEPs in neurophysiological monitoring during spinal surgery. The assessment found that, in several reports, combined SSEP, and MEP monitoring was shown to have greater sensitivity than SSEP alone. The report also noted that the addition of MEP monitoring where SSEP monitoring is already being performed is considered to be relatively straightforward, adding little to the overall effort and resources employed in intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring.

In a systematic review, Fehlings et al (2010) examined if intra-operative monitoring (IOM) is able to sensitively and specifically detect intra-operative neurological injury during spine surgery and to assess whether IOM results in improved outcomes for patients during these procedures. Two independent reviewers assessed the level of evidence quality using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) criteria, and disagreements were resolved by consensus. A total of 103 articles were initially screened and 32 ultimately met the pre-determined inclusion criteria. These researchers determined that there is a high level of evidence that multi-modal (SSEP and MEP) IOM is sensitive and specific for detecting intraoperative neurological injury during spine surgery. On the other hand, there is very low evidence from the literature that unimodal SSEPS or MEPs are valid diagnostic tests for measuring intra-operative neurological injury. There is a low level of evidence that IOM reduces the rate of new or worsened peri-operative neurological deficits (a grade of "low" means that further research is very likely to have an important impact on the confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate). There is very low evidence that an intra-operative response to a neuromonitoring alert reduces the rate of peri-operative neurological deterioration (a grade of "very low" means that any estimate of effect is very uncertain). The authors concluded that based on strong evidence that multimodality intra-operative neuromonitoring is sensitive and specific for detecting intraoperative neurological injury during spine surgery, it is recommended that the use of multimodality intra-operative neuromonitoring be considered in spine surgery where the spinal cord or nerve roots are deemed to be at risk, including procedures involving deformity correction and procedures that require the placement of instrumentation. Furthermore, they stated that there is a need to develop evidence based protocols to deal with intra-operative changes in multimodality intra-operative neuromonitoring and to validate these prospectively. Intraoperative EMG monitoring was not recommended as a means of neurophysiological monitoring during spinal surgery.

BAEP:

Polo and Fischer (2009) stated that BAEP monitoring is a useful tool to decrease the danger of hearing loss during pontocerebellar angle surgery, particularly in MVD.



Critical complications arising during MVD surgery are the stretching of the VIII nerve -- the main cause of hearing loss -- labyrinthine artery manipulation, direct trauma with instruments, or a nearby coagulation, and at end of the surgery neocompression of the cochlear nerve by the prosthesis positioned between the conflicting vessel(s) and the VIIth-VIIIth nerve complex. All these dangers warrant the use of BAEP monitoring during the surgical team's training period. Based on delay in latency of peak V, these investigators established warning thresholds that can provide useful feedback to the surgeon to modify the surgical strategy: the initial signal at 0.4 ms is considered the safety limit. A second signal threshold at 0.6 ms (warning signal for risk) corresponds to the group of patients without resultant hearing loss. The third threshold characterized by the delay of peak V is at 1 ms (warning signal for a potentially critical situation). BAEP monitoring provides the surgeon with information on the functional state of the auditory pathways and should help avoid or correct maneuvers that can harm hearing function. BAEP monitoring during VIIth-VIIIth complex surgery, particularly in MVD of facial nerves for hemifacial spasm (HFS) is very useful during the learning period.

EEG:

EEG monitoring has been widely used to monitor cerebral ischemia secondary to carotid cross clamping during a carotid endarterectomy. EEG monitoring may identify those individuals who would benefit from the use of a vascular shunt during the procedure in order to restore adequate cerebral perfusion. Conversely, shunts, which have an associated risk of iatrogenic complications, may be avoided in those individuals in whom the EEG is normal. Carotid endarterectomy may be done under local anesthesia so that monitoring of cortical function can be directly assessed.

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT°). CPT° is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2018, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT [®]	Description
Codes	
95822	Electroencephalogram (EEG); recording in coma or sleep only
95829	Electrocardiogram at surgery (separate procedure)
95860	Needle electromyography; one extremity with or without related paraspinal
	areas



CPT [®]	Description	
Codes		
95861	Needle electromyography; two extremities with or without related paraspinal	
	areas	
95863	Needle electromyography; three extremities with or without related	
<u> </u>	paraspinal areas	
95864	Needle electromyography; four extremities with or without related	
	paraspinal areas	
95867	Needle electromyography; cranial nerve supplied muscle(s), unilateral	
95868 Needle electromyography; cranial nerve supplied muscles, bilateral		
95870	Needle electromyography; limited study of muscles in one extremity or non-	
	limb (axial) muscles (unilateral or bilateral), other than thoracic paraspinal,	
	cranial nerve supplied muscles, or sphincters	
95905	Nerve conduction studies, using preconfigured array	
95907	Nerve conduction studies; 1-2 studies	
95908	Nerve conduction studies; 3-4 studies	
95909	Nerve conduction studies; 5-6 studies	
95910	Nerve conduction studies; 7-8 studies	
95911	Nerve conduction studies; 9-10 studies	
95912	Nerve conduction studies; 11-12 studies	
95913	Nerve conduction studies; 13 or more studies	
95925	Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all	
	peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in	
	upper limbs	
	Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all	
95926	peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in	
	lower limbs	
	Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, stimulation of any/all	
95927	peripheral nerves or skin sites, recording from the central nervous system; in	
	the trunk or head	
95928	Central motor evoked potential study (transcranial motor stimulation); upper	
	limbs	
95929	Central motor evoked potential study (transcranial motor stimulation); lower	
	limbs	
95930	Visual evoked potential (VEP) testing central nervous system, checkerboard	
	or flash	
95933	Orbicularis oculi (blink) reflex, by electro diagnostic testing	
95937	Neuromuscular junction testing (repetitive stimulation, paired stimuli), each	
33331	nerve, any one method	
95938	Short-latency somatosensory evoked potential study, in upper and lower	
	limbs	
95939	Central motor evoked potential study, in upper and lower limbs	
95940	Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring in the OR	



CPT [®]	Description	
Codes		
95941	Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring remotely, > 1 patient, each	
	hour	
95955	Electroencephalogram (EEG) during nonintracranial surgery (eg, carotid	
	surgery)	
G0453	Intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring remotely, one patient, each 15	
	mins 92650 Auditory evoked potentials; screening of auditory potential with	
	broadband stimuli, automated analysis	
92651	Auditory evoked potentials; for hearing status determination, broadband	
92031	stimuli, with interpretation and report	
02652	Auditory evoked potentials; for threshold estimation at multiple frequencies,	
92652	with interpretation and report	
92653	Auditory evoked potentials; neurodiagnostic, with interpretation and report	
G0453	Intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring remotely, one patient, each 15	
	mins 92650 Auditory evoked potentials; screening of auditory potential with	
	broadband stimuli, automated analysis	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Annual Review	10-8-25	

References

- 1) Crum BA, Strommen JA. Peripheral nerve stimulation and monitoring during operative procedures. Muscle Nerve. 2007 Feb; 35(2):159-70.
- 2) Edwards BM, Kileny PR. Intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring: indications and techniques for common procedures in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery.

 Otolaryngol Clin North Am. 2005 Aug; 38(4):631-42, viii.
- 3) Lehman RM. A review of neurophysiological testing. Neurosurg Focus. 2004 Apr 15; 16(4):ECP1.
- 4) Holland NR. Intraoperative electromyography. J Clin Neurophysiol. 2002 Oct; 19(5):444-53.
- 5) Harner SG, Daube JR, Ebersold MJ, Beatty CW. Improved preservation of facial nerve function with use of electrical monitoring during removal of acoustic neuromas.
- 6) Mayo Clin Proc. 1987; 62(2):92-102. Kwartler JA, Luxford WM, Atkins J, Shelton C. Facial nerve monitoring in acoustic tumor surgery. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 1991; 104(6):814-817.



- 7) Olds MJ, Rowan PT, Isaacson JE, Silverstein H. Facial nerve monitoring among graduates of the Ear Research Foundation. Am J Otol. 1997; 18:507-511.
- 8) Fabregas N, Gomar C. Monitoring in neuroanaesthesia: Update of clinical usefulness. Eur J Anaesthesiol. 2001; 18(7):423-439.
- 9) Ingelmo I, Trapero JG, Puig A, et al. Intraoperative monitoring of the facial nerve: Anesthesia and neurophysiology considerations. Rev Esp Anestesiol Reanim. 2003; 50(9):460-471.
- 10) No authors listed. Assessment: Intraoperative neurophysiology. Report of the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Neurology. 1990; 40(11):1644-1646.
- 11) American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (AAOHNS). Facial nerve monitoring. Position Statements. Alexandria, VA: AAOHNS; submitted September 12, 1998. Available at: http://www.entlink.net/practice/rules/facial_nerve_monitoring.cfm. Accessed October 20, 2004.
- 12) Dulguerov P, Marchal F, Lehmann W. Postparotidectomy facial nerve paralysis: Possible etiologic factors and results with routine facial nerve monitoring. Laryngoscope. 1999; 109(5):754-762.
- 13) Brennan J, Moore EJ, Shuler KJ. Prospective analysis of the efficacy of continuous intraoperative nerve monitoring during thyroidectomy, Parathyroidectomy, and parotidectomy. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2001; 124(5):537-543.
- 14) Terrell JE, Kileny PR, Yian C, et al. Clinical outcome of continuous facial nerve monitoring during primary parotidectomy. Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 1997; 123(10):1081-1087.
- 15) Timon CI, Rafferty M. Nerve monitoring in thyroid surgery: Is it worthwhile? Clin Otolaryngol. 1999; 24(6):487-490.
- 16) Horn D, Rotzscher VM. Intraoperative electromyogram monitoring of the recurrent laryngeal nerve: Experience with an intralaryngeal surface electrode. A method to reduce the risk of recurrent laryngeal nerve injury during thyroid surgery. Langenbecks Arch Surg. 1999; 384(4):392-395.



- 17) Jonas J, Bahr R. Neuromonitoring of the external branch of the superior Laryngeal nerve during thyroid surgery. Am J Surg. 2000; 179(3):234-236.
- 18) Djohan RS, Rodriguez HE, Connolly MM, et al. Intraoperative monitoring of recurrent laryngeal nerve function. Am Surg. 2000; 66(6):595-597.
- 19) Brennan J, Moore EJ, Shuler KJ. Prospective analysis of the efficacy of continuous intraoperative nerve monitoring during thyroidectomy, Parathyroidectomy, and parotidectomy. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2001; 124(5):537-543.
- 20) Hemmerling TM, Schmidt J, Bosert C, et al. Intraoperative monitoring of the recurrent laryngeal nerve in 151 consecutive patients undergoing thyroid surgery. Anesth Analg. 2001; 93(2):396-399.
- 21) Dimov RS, Doikov IJ, Mitov FS, et al. Intraoperative identification of recurrent laryngeal nerves in thyroid surgery by electrical stimulation. Folia Med (Plovdiv). 2001; 43(4):10-13.
- 22) Thomusch O, Sekulla C, Walls G, et al. Intra-operative neuromonitoring of surgery for benign goiter. Am J Surg. 2002; 183(6):673-678.
- 23) Tschopp KP, Gottardo C. Comparison of various methods of electromyographic monitoring of the recurrent laryngeal nerve in thyroid surgery. Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol. 2002; 111(9):811-816.
- 24) Brauckhoff M, Gimm O, Thanh PN, et al. First experiences in intraoperative neurostimulation of the recurrent laryngeal nerve during thyroid surgery of children and adolescents. J Pediatr Surg. 2002; 37(10):1414-1418.
- 25) Otto RA, Cochran CS. Sensitivity and specificity of intraoperative recurrent Laryngeal nerve stimulation in predicting postoperative nerve paralysis. Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol. 2002; 111(11):1005-1007.
- 26) Dackiw AP, Rotstein LE, Clark OH. Computer-assisted evoked electromyography with stimulating surgical instruments for recurrent/external laryngeal nerve identification and preservation in thyroid and parathyroid operation. Surgery. 2002; 132(6):1100-1106; discussion 1107-1108.
- 27) Hillermann CL, Tarpey J, Phillips DE. Laryngeal nerve identification during Thyroid surgery -- feasibility of a novel approach. Can J Anaesth. 2003; 50 (2):189-192.



- 28) Marcus B, Edwards B, Yoo S, et al. Recurrent laryngeal nerve monitoring in Thyroid and parathyroid surgery: The University of Michigan experience. Laryngoscope. 2003; 113(2):356-361.
- 29) Hermann M, Hellebart C, Freissmuth M. Neuromonitoring in thyroid surgery: Prospective evaluation of intraoperative electrophysiological responses for the prediction of recurrent laryngeal nerve injury. Ann Surg. 2004; 240(1):9-17.
- 30) Beldi G, Kinsbergen T, Schlumpf R. Evaluation of intraoperative recurrent nerve monitoring in thyroid surgery. World J Surg. 2004; 28(6):589-591.
- 31) Robertson ML, Steward DL, Gluckman JL, and Welge J. Continuous Laryngeal nerve integrity monitoring during thyroidectomy: Does it reduce risk or injury? Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2004; 131(5):596-600.
- 32) Marusch F, Hussock J, Haring G, et al. Influence of muscle relaxation on neuromonitoring of the recurrent laryngeal nerve during thyroid surgery. Br J Anaesth. 2005; 94(5):596-600.
- 33) Tomoda C, Hirokawa Y, Uruno T, et al. Sensitivity and specificity of intraoperative recurrent laryngeal nerve stimulation test for predicting vocal cord palsy after thyroid surgery. World J Surg. 2006; 30(7):1230-1233.
- 34) Chiang FY, Lu IC, Kuo WR, et al. The mechanism of recurrent laryngeal nerve injury during thyroid surgery--the application of intraoperative neuromonitoring. Surgery. 2008; 143(6):743-749.
- 35) National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Intraoperative nerve monitoring during thyroid surgery. Interventional Procedure Guidance 255. London, UK: NICE; March 2008. Available at: http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/IPG255Guidance.pdf. Accessed September 22, 2008.
- 36) Barczyński M, Konturek A, Cichoń S. Randomized clinical trial of visualization versus neuromonitoring of recurrent laryngeal nerves during Thyroidectomy. Br J Surg. 2009; 96(3):240-246.
- 37) Cavicchi O, Caliceti U, Fernandez IJ, et al. The value of neurostimulation and intraoperative nerve monitoring of inferior laryngeal nerve in thyroid surgery. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2009; 140(6):866-870.



- 38) Harrison BJ, Triponez F. Intraoperative adjuncts in surgery for primary Hyperparathyroidism. Langenbecks Arch Surg. 2009; 394(5):799-809.
- 39) Kiviniemi H, Vornanen T, Makela J. Prevention of complications of thyroid and parathyroid surgery. Duodecim. 2010; 126(3):269-275.
- 40) Schlake HP, Goldbrunner R, Siebert M, et al. Intra-Operative Electromyographic monitoring of extra-ocular motor nerves (Nn. III, VI) in skull base surgery. Acta Neurochir (Wien). 2001; 143(3):251-261.
- 41) Vial Ch, Bouhour F. Electrophysiological examination of the cranial nerves: Technical aspects and practical applications. Rev Med Liege. 2004; 59 Suppl 1:82-90.
- 42) Lefaucheur JP, Neves DO, Vial C. Electrophysiological monitoring of cranial motor nerves (V, VII, IX, X, XI, XII). Neurochirurgie. 2009; 55(2):136-141.
- 43) Legatt AD, Schroeder CE, Gill B, Goodrich JT. Electrical stimulation and multichannel EMG recording for identification of functional neural tissueduring cauda equina surgery. Childs Nerv Syst. 1992; 8(4):185-189.
- 44) Owen JH, Kostuik JP, Gornet M, et al. The use of mechanically elicited Electromyograms to protect nerve roots during surgery for spinal degeneration. Spine. 1994; 19(15):1704-1710.
- 45) Maguire J, Wallace S, Madiga R, et al. Evaluation of intrapedicular screw position using intraoperative evoked electromyography. Spine. 1995; 20 (9):1068-1074.
- 46) Beatty RM, McGuire P, Moroney JM, Holladay FP. Continuous intraoperative electromyographic recording during spinal surgery. J Neurosurg. 1995; 82(3):401-405.
- 47) Holland NR. Intraoperative electromyography during thoracolumbar spinal surgery. Spine. 1998; 23(17):1915-1922.
- 48) Weiss DS. Spinal cord and nerve root monitoring during surgical treatment of lumbar stenosis. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2001; (384):82-100.
- 49) Reidy DP, Houlden D, Nolan PC, et al. Evaluation of electromyographic monitoring during insertion of thoracic pedicle screws. J Bone Joint Surg Br. 2001; 83(7):1009-1014.
- 50) Holland NR. Intraoperative electromyography. J Clin Neurophysiol. 2002; 19 (5):444-453.



- 51) Raynor BL, Lenke LG, Kim Y, et al. Can triggered electromyography thresholds predict safe thoracic pedicle screw placement? Spine. 2002; 27 (18):2030-2035.
- 52) Finkelstein JA. Can triggered electromyography thresholds predict safe thoracic pedicle screw placement. Spine. 2003; 28(9):960.
- 53) Gunnarsson T, Krassioukov AV, Sarjeant R, Fehlings MG. Real-time continuous intraoperative electromyographic and somatosensory evoked potential recordings in spinal surgery: Correlation of clinical and Electrophysiological findings in a prospective, consecutive series of 213 cases. Spine. 2004; 29(6):677-684.
- 54) Krassioukov AV, Sarjeant R, Arkia H, Fehlings MG. Multimodality intraoperative monitoring during complex lumbosacral procedures: Indications, techniques, and long-term follow-up review of 61 consecutive cases. J Neurosurg Spine. 2004; 1(3):243-253.
- 55) Slimp JC. Electrophysiological intraoperative monitoring for spine procedures. Phys Med Rehabil Clin N Am. 2004; 15(1):85-105.
- 56) Jimenez JC, Sani S, Braverman B, et al. Palsies of the fifth cervical nerve root after cervical decompression: Prevention using continuous intraoperative electromyography monitoring. J Neurosurg Spine. 2005; 3 (2):92-97.
- 57) Erickson L, Costa V, and McGregor M. Use of intraoperative Neurophysiological monitoring during spinal surgery. McGill University Health Center. Report Number 20, July 7, 2005. Available at: http://upload.mcgill.ca/tau/SPINAL_MONITORING_Final.pdf. Accessed March 3, 2006.
- 58) Resnick D, Choudhri T, Dailey A et al. Guidelines for the performance of fusion procedures for degenerative disease of the lumbar spine. Part 15: Electrophysiological monitoring and lumbar fusion. J Neurosurg Spine. 2005; 2(6):725-732.
- 59) Paradiso G, Lee GY, Sarjeant R, et al. Multimodality intraoperative Neurophysiologic monitoring findings during surgery for adult tethered cord syndrome: Analysis of a series of 44 patients with long-term follow-up. Spine. 2006; 31(18):2095-2102.
- 60) Fehlings MG, Brodke DS, Norvell DC, Dettori JR. The evidence for intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring in spine surgery: Does it make a difference? Spine. 2010; 35(9 Suppl):S37-S46.



- 61) Kundnani VK, Zhu L, Tak H, Wong H. Multimodal intraoperative Neuromonitoring in corrective surgery for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: Evaluation of 354 consecutive cases. Indian J Orthop. 2010; 44(1):64-72.
- 62) American Academy of Neurology. Assessment: Dermatomal somatosensory evoked potentials. Report of the American Academy of Neurology's Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee. Neurology. 1997; 49 (4):1127-1130.
- 63) Galla JD, Ergin MA, Lansman SL, et al. Use of somatosensory evoked potentials for thoracic and thoracoabdominal aortic resections. Ann Thorac Surg. 1999; 67 (6):1947-1952.
- 64) Guerit JM, Witdoeckt C, Verhelst R, et al. Sensitivity, specificity, and surgical impact of somatosensory evoked potentials in descending aorta surgery. Ann Thorac Surg. 1999; 67(6):1943-1946.
- 65) Bejjani GK, Nora PC, Vera PL, et al. The predictive value of intraoperative Somatosensory evoked potential monitoring: Review of 244 procedures. Neurosurgery. 1998; 43(3):491-500.
- 66) Fehlings MG, Brodke DS, Norvell DC, Dettori JR. The evidence for intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring in spine surgery: Does it make a difference? Spine. 2010; 35(9 Suppl):S37-S46.
- 67) Acioly MA, Liebsch M, de Aguiar PH, Tatagiba M. Facial nerve monitoring during Cerebellopontine angle and skull base tumor surgery: A systematic review from description to current success on function prediction. World Neurosurg. 2011 Nov 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- 68) Resnick, D.K., Choudhri, T.F., Dailey, A.T., Groff, M.W., Khoo, L., Matz, P.G., et al. (2005). Guidelines for the performance of fusion procedures for degenerative disease of the lumbar spine. Part 15: Electrophysiological monitoring and lumbar fusion. Journal of Neurosurgery, 2 (6), 725-732.
- 69) Hermann, M., et al. Neuromonitoring in Thyroid Surgery. Annals of Surgery 2004 July; 240(1):9-17.

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted



standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.



©2018 Centene Corporation. All rights reserved. All materials are exclusively owned by Centene Corporation and are protected by United States copyright law and international copyright law. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, modified, distributed, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or otherwise published without the prior written permission of Centene Corporation. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice contained herein. Centene® and Centene Corporation® are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Centene Corporation.

QualChoice.com
© 2025 QualChoice. All rights reserved.