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- Pain is neuropathic in nature; i.e., resulting from actual damage to the peripheral nerves. Common indications include, but are not limited to failed back syndrome, complex regional pain syndrome (i.e., reflex sympathetic dystrophy), arachnoiditis, radiculopathies, phantom limb/stump pain, peripheral neuropathy. Spinal cord stimulation is generally not effective in treating nociceptive pain (resulting from irritation, not damage to the nerves) and central deafferentation pain (related to CNS damage from a stroke or spinal cord injury).

No serious untreated drug habituation exists

10/1/06 No policy statement changes.

10/1/07 No policy statement changes.

10/1/08 No policy statement changes.

10/1/09 Policy statement revised to include use for refractory angina pectoris as investigational.

10/1/10 No policy statement changes.

10/1/11 No policy statement changes.

10/1/12 No policy statement changes.

10/1/13 No policy statement changes.

10/1/14 Investigational statement modified to state all other situations, with examples. Cancer-related pain added to investigational statement.

10/1/15 Heart failure added to investigational statement, and investigational statement edited for readability.

6/1/16 Investigational policy statement was added for high frequency spinal cord stimulation.

10/1/16 No policy statement changes.

6/1/17 Investigational statement added for wireless injectable dorsal root ganglion neurostimulation; high-frequency spinal cord stimulation added to medically necessary statement.

10/1/17 "Wireless injectable" removed from policy statement on dorsal root ganglion neurostimulation. "Dorsal root ganglion" added to policy title.

10/1/18 Policy statements unchanged. Policy Guidelines section revised to add Burst neurostimulation as an alternate programming of a standard SCS device.

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