

# Interspinous Fusion and Decompression Devices (for North Carolina Only)

Policy Number: CSNCT0363.01  
Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[➔ Instructions for Use](#)

Table of Contents	Page
<a href="#">Application</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Coverage Rationale</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Applicable Codes</a> .....	1
<a href="#">References</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Policy History/Revision Information</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Instructions for Use</a> .....	3

Related Policies
• <a href="#">Discogenic Pain Treatment</a>
• <a href="#">Epidural Steroid Injections for Spinal Pain (for North Carolina Only)</a>
• <a href="#">Facet Joint Injections for Spinal Pain (for North Carolina Only)</a>
• <a href="#">Spinal Fusion and Bone Healing Enhancement Products</a>
• <a href="#">Total Artificial Disc Replacement for the Cervical Spine (for North Carolina Only)</a>
• <a href="#">Vertebral Body Tethering for Scoliosis</a>

## Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of North Carolina.

## Coverage Rationale

Spinal procedures for the treatment of spine pain are proven and medically necessary in certain circumstances. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [North Carolina Medicaid \(Division of Health Benefits\) Clinical Coverage Policy for Physicians, 1A-30, Spinal Surgeries](#).

## Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

CPT Code	Description
22853	Insertion of interbody biomechanical device(s) (eg, synthetic cage, mesh) with integral anterior instrumentation for device anchoring (eg, screws, flanges), when performed, to intervertebral disc space in conjunction with interbody arthrodesis, each interspace (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

CPT Code	Description
22854	Insertion of intervertebral biomechanical device(s) (eg, synthetic cage, mesh) with integral anterior instrumentation for device anchoring (eg, screws, flanges), when performed, to vertebral corpectomy(ies) (vertebral body resection, partial or complete) defect, in conjunction with interbody arthrodesis, each contiguous defect (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22859	Insertion of intervertebral biomechanical device(s) (eg, synthetic cage, mesh, methylmethacrylate) to intervertebral disc space or vertebral body defect without interbody arthrodesis, each contiguous defect (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22867	Insertion of interlaminar/interspinous process stabilization/distraction device, without fusion, including image guidance when performed, with open decompression, lumbar; single level
22868	Insertion of interlaminar/interspinous process stabilization/distraction device, without fusion, including image guidance when performed, with open decompression, lumbar; second level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22869	Insertion of interlaminar/interspinous process stabilization/distraction device, without open decompression or fusion, including image guidance when performed, lumbar; single level
22870	Insertion of interlaminar/interspinous process stabilization/distraction device, without open decompression or fusion, including image guidance when performed, lumbar; second level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22899	Unlisted procedure, spine

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HCPCS Code	Description
C1821	Interspinous process distraction device (implantable)

## References

North Carolina Medicaid, Division of Health Benefits, Clinical Coverage Policies, Spinal Surgeries, No: 1A-30.  
[https://files.nc.gov/ncdma/documents/files/1A-30\\_4.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/ncdma/documents/files/1A-30_4.pdf). Accessed January 24, 2023.

## Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
07/01/2023	<p><b>Title Change/Template Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocated and reformatted content previously included in the Medical Policy titled <i>Surgical Treatment for Spine Pain (for North Carolina Only)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Related Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added reference link to the Medical Policy titled <i>Discogenic Pain Treatment</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Applicable Codes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added HCPCS code C1821</li> <li>Removed CPT codes 0200T, 0201T, 0202T, 0219T, 0220T, 0221T, 0222T, 0274T, 0275T, 20930, 20931, 22100, 22101, 22102, 22103, 22110, 22112, 22114, 22116, 22206, 22207, 22208, 22210, 22212, 22214, 22216, 22220, 22222, 22224, 22226, 22532, 22533, 22534, 22548, 22551, 22552, 22554, 22556, 22558, 22585, 22586, 22590, 22595, 22600, 22610, 22612, 22614, 22630, 22632, 22633, 22634, 22800, 22802, 22804, 22808, 22810, 22812, 22818, 22819, 22830, 22840, 22841, 22842, 22843, 22844, 22845, 22846, 22847, 22848, 22849, 22850, 22852, 22855, 62380, 63001, 63003, 63005, 63011, 63012, 63015, 63016, 63017, 63020, 63030, 63035, 63040, 63042, 63043, 63044, 63045, 63046, 63047, 63048, 63050, 63051, 63052, 63053, 63055, 63056, 63057, 63064, 63066, 63075, 63076, 63077, 63078, 63081, 63082, 63085, 63086, 63087, 63088, 63090, 63091, 63101, 63102, 63103, 63170, 63172, 63173, 63185, 63190, 63191, 63197, 63200, 63250, 63251, 63252, 63265, 63266, 63267, 63268, 63270, 63271, 63272, 63275, 63277, 63280, 63282, 63285, 63286, 63287, 63290, 63300, 63301, 63302, 63303, 63304, 63305, 63306, 63307, and 63308</li> </ul>

Date	Summary of Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removed coding notations</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archived previous policy version CSNCT0547.04</li> </ul>

## Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, please check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.