Section Title: Benefits Administration – *Healthcare Services*
Subject: Neuroaugmentative Devices
Effective Date: June 12, 1985

A. POLICY

The Workers Compensation Board (WCB) may authorize the implant of a neuroaugmentative pain control device when the WCB determines it to be appropriate.

B. REFERENCES

The Workers Compensation Act, section 27

History:

1. Policy approved by Board of Directors by Board Order 87/85 on June 12, 1985, effective immediately.
2. Minor formatting and grammatical changes were made to the policy and a history section was added, June 27, 2012.
3. Minor formatting changes made to the policy February 2021.
4. In December 2022, the policy was updated to reflect the amendment and renumbering of section 27 by *The Workers Compensation Amendment Act* (commonly referred to as Bill 18). Minor formatting changes were also made to the policy.
5. Policy was rescinded by Board Order No. 27/24 on June 20, 2024, effective June 30, 2024. The policy was removed from the policy manual and archived. The archived policy applies to decision made between June 12, 1985 and June 30, 2024.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

1. Any request by a worker's attending physician to implant a neuroaugmentative device must be authorized by WCB Healthcare Services prior to the device being implanted. The attending physician making the request must outline the worker's medical condition and the reasons for the request.

2. A full psychological assessment of the worker will be done in every case that an implant is proposed.

3. A WCB Healthcare Services Consultant will review all medical information to determine whether the implant is appropriate and will be useful to the worker.

4. If the implant is approved, the Consultant will provide the attending physician with written authorization to carry out the procedure. If the implant is not approved, the Consultant will advise the attending physician that the procedure should not be carried out and give reasons for that decision.