DRY NEEDLING

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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**DRY NEEDLING** (cont.)

**Description:**

Dry needling is a technique in which a fine needle is inserted into the skin and muscle at a site of myofascial pain. The intent is to stimulate underlying myofascial trigger points, muscles, and connective tissues to manage myofascial pain. Dry needling has been investigated to treat dysfunctions in skeletal muscle, fascia, and connective tissue; diminish persistent peripheral pain; and reduce impairments of body structure and function. Dry needling may also be referred to as Trigger Point Dry Needling (TDN) or Intramuscular Manual Therapy (IMT).

**Criteria:**

- Dry needling for all indications is considered *experimental or investigational* based upon:
  
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.

  These indications include, *but are not limited to*:

  - Myofascial pain
Resources:

Literature reviewed 05/15/18. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

The BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual (MPRM) policy is included in our guideline review. References cited in the MPRM policy are not duplicated on this guideline.


DRY NEEDLING (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


DRY NEEDLING (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


DRY NEEDLING (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


DRY NEEDLING (cont.)

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. BCBSAZ provides appropriate free aids and services, such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats, to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. BCBSAZ also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, call (602) 864-4884 for Spanish and (877) 475-4799 for all other languages and other aids and services.

If you believe that BCBSAZ has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, P.O. Box 13466, Phoenix, AZ 85002-3466, (602) 864-2288, TTY/TDD (602) 864-4823, crc@azblue.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail or email. If you need help filing a grievance BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1–800–368–1019, 800–537–7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

Multi-Language Interpreter Services:

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 602-864-4884.

Navajo: Díí kwe’ é atah nílníngíí Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haada yit’ éego bina’ ádílkidgo éí dodago Háída bígí aniyeedííí t’áadoo le’é yina’ ádílkidgo beehaz’ ááníí hólo díí t’áá hazaad’ éh’í háká a’dowolgo be haz’ á doo bááq ilínígóó. Atá’ halne’ígíí kojí bichi’ y hodíílíníí 877-475-4799.

Chinese: 如果您，或是您正在协助的对象，有关于插入项目名称 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 方面的问题，您有权免费以您的母语得到帮助和讯息。请一位翻译员，拨打电话 在此插入数字 877-475-4799。

Vietnamese: Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thể thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thống dịch viên, xin gọi 877-475-4799.

Arabic: إن كان لديك أو لدى شخص تسامح أسلمة بخصوص المقرضية بعلاقة من دون إياك تكلفة ، للتحدث مع مترجم التصلب 877-475-4799.
DRY NEEDLING (cont.)

Multi-Language Interpreter Services: (cont.)

Tagalog: Kung ikaw, o ang iyong tinutuiangan, ay may mga katanungan tungkol sa Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, may karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika ng walang gastos. Upang makaukap ang isang tagsalsin, tumawag sa 877-475-4799.

Korean: 만약 귀하 또는 귀하가 دبbling 있는 어떤 사람이 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 에 간호사 질문이 있다면 귀하는 그러한 도움과 정보를 귀하의 언어로 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 그렇게 동역사와 매기기 위해서는 877-475-4799 로 전화하십시오.

French: Si vous, ou quelqu’un que vous êtes en train d’aider, a des questions à propos de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, vous avez le droit d’obtenir de l’aide et l’information dans votre langue à aucun coût. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 877-475-4799.

German: Falls Sie oder jemand, dem Sie helfen, Fragen zum Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haben, haben Sie das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Um mit einem Dolmetscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 877-475-4799 an.

Russian: Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 877-475-4799.

Japanese: ご本人様、またはお客様の身の回りの方でも、Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona についてご質問がございましたら、ご希望の言語でサポートを受けたり、情報を入手したりすることができます。料金はかかりません。通訳とお話される場合、877-475-4799 までお電話ください。

Farsi: اگر شما یا کسی که شما به آن کمک می‌کنید، سوالات در مورد اطلاعات به زبان خود را به طور رایگان در فاصله 877-475-4799 که ممکن حاضر نباشید.

Assyrian: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona نین کیشی ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو، ده نین دو 877-475-4799.

Serbo-Croatian: Ukoliko Vi ili neko kom Vi pomažete ima pitanje o Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, imate pravo da besplatno dobijete pomoć i informacije na Vašem jeziku. Da biste razgovarali sa prevodiocem, nazovite 877-475-4799.

Thai: หากคุณ หรือผู้ที่คุณช่วยเหลือมีคำถามเกี่ยวกับ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona คุณมีสิทธิ์ได้รับความช่วยเหลือและข้อมูลในภาษาของคุณได้โดยไม่ต้องเสียค่าใช้จ่าย โปรดโทรศัพท์ที่ 877-475-4799.