



**2009**

**BONE GROWTH (ELECTRICAL) STIMULATION CRITERIA  
(MEDICARE)**

Direct current electrical bone-growth stimulators are medically necessary for ANY of the following indications:

- Non-unions, failed fusions, and congenital pseudarthrosis where there is no evidence of progression of healing for three or more months despite appropriate fracture care; **OR**
- Delayed unions of fractures or failed arthrodesis at high risk sites (i.e., open or segmental tibial fractures, carpal navicular fractures); **OR**
- Members who are at high risk for fusion failure when any of the following criteria is met:
  - One or more failed fusions; **OR**
  - Grade II or worse spondylolisthesis; **OR**
  - A multiple level fusion entailing 3 or more vertebrae (e.g., L3 to L5, L4 to S1, etc.); **OR**
  - Other risk factors for fusion failure are present, including gross obesity, degenerative osteoarthritis, severe spondylolisthesis, current smoking, previous fusion surgery, previous disc surgery, or gross instability; **OR**
- Any other condition where it is determined, upon medical review, that electrical stimulation is likely to avoid the need for open reduction and bone graft.