

TMS TRENDS

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A publication of the TMS Institute of Pennsylvania – Advanced Neuropsychiatric Solutions

DEPRESSION AFFECTS HEALTH OUTCOMES

It is often overlooked that depression not only takes a toll on one's behavioral and emotional well-being, but can also be burdensome on an individual's physical health. Research suggests that the concurrent presence of untreated or poorly treated major depression has been shown to have a significant impact on the morbidity and mortality for a variety of medical conditions such as stroke, heart disease, myocardial infarction, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and HIV. One study found that individuals who reported depression and/or anxiety experienced 1.5 times the number of deaths compared to rates for the rest of the population studied (Murphy, J.M., et al.) These deleterious effects are thought to emerge because untreated depression may adversely affect an individual's ability to follow through with recommended beneficial health behaviors

NEUROSTAR CARE CONNECTION

Even before beginning treatment, NeuroStar Care Connection (NCC) can aid patients in the attempt to secure health plan coverage for treatment. NCC, which is staffed by trained case managers, aims to help patients gain access to TMS Therapy as quickly as possible by assisting in the reimbursement process. This also serves to alleviate the stress associated with this process, as the patient has access to the support needed to navigate such a complicated system of appeals. We encourage all individuals considering TMS Therapy to submit an enrollment form to NCC. This helps to further express the need and demand for TMS to insurance companies. NeuroStar Care Connection enrollment forms can be downloaded from our website.

WHO HAS PAID?

As of March 2010, the following companies have reimbursed patients for TMS Therapy, all via case-by-case approvals:

- Aetna (3 cases)
- Anthem (WellPoint) (2)
- BS of CA (6)
- BCBS Federal (2)
- CareFirst (BCBS of Maryland) (1)
- Consolidated Health System (1)
- Empire BCBS (1)
- Employers (CVS-CareMark and 3 city governments)
- Excellus BCBS (1)
- GEHA (1)
- Humana (1)
- POMCO (6)
- South Carolina Medicare (Palmetto GBA) (2)
- United Health Care (4)

In total, 70 cases have been covered through case-by-case approvals or external appeals. Payment rates range from 40-100% of charges.