Origination Date: 5/02	Revision Dates: 4/04, 2/05, 2/06, 2/07, 2/08, 2/09
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	

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Approved: **Csaba Mera, MD** **Date:** 02/24/09

Description:
Interferential electric or current therapy is an anti-inflammatory-based treatment that utilizes alternating currents that penetrate deep into soft tissue and bone and produce a wide range of physiological effects at the cellular level. The alternating currents interfere with the transmission of pain messages at the spinal cord level. Because of the frequency, the Interferential wave meets low impedance when crossing the skin to enter underlying tissue. This is reported to provide deep tissue penetration, which stimulates parasympathetic nerve fibers for increased blood flow and edema reduction. The interferential stimulator does not create physical movement or patient discomfort because it delivers stimulation at medium frequencies which will not stimulate motor or sensory nerves, nor will it damage new tissue growth or generate heat because it delivers electrical current at a frequency of 4000Hz to 4150Hz. Interferential therapy is used intra-operatively, post-operatively, or as a conservative non-surgical form of pain management by placing 2 to 4 electrodes around the pain site on the patient.

Criteria:
Interferential Stimulation Devices are not covered by ODS. They have not been scientifically shown to be effective treatment for home use, for any indication, and are therefore considered to be investigational.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:
None. This is considered to be investigational treatment for home use.

Applicable CPT/HCPC:
Note: This list may not be all-inclusive

E1399:	Durable medical equipment, miscellaneous

References:

- Interferential Current Therapy as an Alternative Treatment; supplied by Advanced Therapy Concepts.
- Johnson M, Tabasam G. An Investigation Into the Analgesic Effects of Interferential Currents and Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation on Experimentally Induced Ischemic Pain in Otherwise Pain-Free Volunteers. Phys Ther.2003;83:208-223.
- Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, Office of the Medical Director, Technology Assessment, Dynatron STS, 4/3/02.
- California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF). Interferential stimulation for the treatment of musculoskeletal pain. Technology Assessment. San Francisco, CA: CTAF; October 19, 2005. Available at URL address: http://ctaf.org/ass/viewfull.ctaf?id=65198186094. Accessed February 9, 2007.
- Jarit, GJ, Mohr KJ, Waller R, Glousman RE. The effects of home interferential therapy on post-operative pain, edema, and range of motion of the knee. Clin J Sport Med. 2003;13(1):16-20.
- Physician Advisors