Clinical Review Criteria
Magna Bloc Technology for Low-Back Pain

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Criteria
There is insufficient evidence in the published medical literature to show that this service/therapy is as safe as standard services/therapies (and/or) provides better long-term outcomes than current standard services/therapies.

The following information was used in the development of this document and is provided as background only. It is not to be used as coverage criteria. Please only refer to the criteria listed above for coverage determinations.

Background
The Magna Bloc™ is a non-pharmacologic, noninvasive magnetic device, approximately 3.5cm in diameter. It contains four magnets arranged in alternating polarity that, according to the manufacturer (Holcomb Health Care, Nashville, TN), creates a very steep three-dimensional field gradient that differentiates Magna Bloc™ from other magnetic devices. The manufacturer states that the "steep three-dimensional field gradient is responsible for biological effects such as calcium and sodium channel blockade, stabilization of abnormal cell function…and effects on certain enzyme systems". Magna Bloc™ is currently being studied at Vanderbilt University for the treatment of refractory pain syndromes.

Medical Technology Assessment Committee (MTAC)
Magna Bloc™ Technology
10/09/2002: MTAC REVIEW
Evidence Conclusion: There is insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of Magna Bloc Technology for the treatment of low-back pain.
Articles: The search yielded 3 articles on the treatment of pain with static magnetic fields. There was a case report (n=2) and two randomized controlled trials (RCTs). One of the RCTs studied a different magnetic technology (magnetic sleep pads) for the treatment of fibromyalgia. The other RCT examined the efficacy of the Magna Bloc™ device for treating rheumatoid arthritis of the knee. Magna Bloc™ was not found to be more effective than a sham device. There were no studies on the use of Magna Bloc™ technology for treating back pain.

The use of Magna Bloc™ Technology in the treatment of low-back pain does not meet the Kaiser Permanente Medical Technology Assessment Criteria.

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MDCRPC Medical Director Clinical Review and Policy Committee
MPC Medical Policy Committee

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Codes
There are no codes for Magna Bloc