



## *Spinal Unloading Devices*

<b>Origination:</b> 03/30/09	<b>Revised:</b> 10/03/17	<b>Annual Review:</b> 11/02/17
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### **Purpose:**

The Medical Technology Assessment Committee will review published scientific literature and information from appropriate government regulatory bodies (when available) related to Spinal Unloading Devices in order to determine inclusion in the benefit plan.

### ***Compliance Status***

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): Medicare has a national coverage policy that states the non-coverage of Vertebral Axial Decompression (VAX-D).

### **Recommendation:**

A recommendation was made by the MTAC following discussion by committee members based on current literature:

- The use of *devices for spinal unloading* is considered experimental and investigational. Reimbursement for their use and any associated modalities and visits is not a covered benefit.

### ***Definition***

- Spinal unloading devices are advocated for non-surgical treatment of back pain and other back ailments. These devices come in various forms, including patient operated ones, and usually utilize computer-controlled mechanical tables to apply tension or stretching along the spinal axis. Currently there is insufficient evidence to indicate that they are useful in treating back pain or preventing surgery.

### ***Example of devices used for spinal unloading (this list is not to be considered all-inclusive)***

Accu-Spina System	LTX 3000
Antalgic-Trak	Orthotrac Pneumatic Vest
AxiomWorldWide (DRX-2000, DRX-3000, DRX-5000, DRX-9000)	NuChoice Medical Healthstar Elite Decompression Therapy
Cert Health Services SpineMEDDecompression Table	Saunder 3D ActiveTrac
Decompression Reduction Stabilization (DRS) System	Spinerx LDM
Internal Disc Decompression (IDD) Therapy	Tru Trak 401
Lordex Traction Unit	VAX-D



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