

MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	SPINAL INJECTIONS (EPIDURAL AND FACET INJECTIONS) FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT
Policy Number	7.01.87
Category	Technology Assessment
Effective Date	08/15/13
Revised Date	07/17/14, 06/18/15, 05/25/16, 05/18/17, 06/21/18, 12/20/18, 06/20/19, 12/19/19
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply. • If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan product) or a Medicaid product covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, an *initial diagnostic facet joint injection/medial branch block* has been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **medically appropriate** to determine whether chronic neck or back pain is of facet joint origin when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:
 - A. Pain is exacerbated by facet loading maneuvers on physical examination;
 - B. Pain has persisted despite at least four (4) weeks of appropriate conservative treatment (e.g., physical methods including physical therapy, chiropractic care and exercise, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, and/or analgesics unless contraindicated and the reason(s) for contraindication(s) is/are documented in the medical record;
 - C. Clinical findings and imaging studies suggest no other obvious cause of the pain (e.g., central spinal stenosis with neurogenic claudication/myelopathy, foraminal stenosis or, disc herniation with concordant radicular pain/radiculopathy, infection, tumor, fracture, pseudoarthrosis, pain related to spinal instrumentation); and
 - D. The spinal motion segment is not posteriorly fused.
- II. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, a *second diagnostic facet joint injection/medial branch block* performed to confirm the validity of the clinical response to the initial facet joint injection, has been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **medically appropriate** when the following criteria are met:
 - A. Administered at the same level as the initial block; and
 - B. The initial diagnostic facet joint injection produced a positive response (i.e., at least 80% relief of facet mediated pain for at least the expected minimum duration of the effect of the local anesthetic); and
 - C. A radiofrequency joint denervation/ablation procedure is being considered.
- III. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, an *intra-articular facet joint injection performed with synovial cyst aspiration*, in addition to a *transforaminal epidural steroid injection (TFESI)*, is considered **medically appropriate** when **BOTH** the following criteria are met:
 - A. Advanced diagnostic imaging studies (e.g., MRI, CT, CT myelogram) confirm compression or displacement of the corresponding nerve root by a facet joint synovial cyst; and
 - B. Clinical correlation with the individual's signs and symptoms of radicular pain or radiculopathy, based on history and physical examination.
- IV. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, performance of a *facet joint injection/medial branch block* is considered **not medically necessary** for ANY of the following indications:
 - A. Injectates other than anesthetic, corticosteroid, and/or contrast agent;
 - B. Without the use of fluoroscopic or CT guidance;

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- C. In the presence of an untreated radiculopathy (with the exception of radiculopathy caused by a facet joint synovial cyst);
 - D. When a radiofrequency joint denervation/ablation procedure (i.e., facet neurotomy, facet rhizotomy) is not being considered;
 - E. The facet joint injection is performed at a fused posterior spinal motion segment;
 - F. On the same day of service when performing other injections (e.g., epidural steroid, sacroiliac) in the same region;
 - G. Performance of injections/blocks on more than three (3) contiguous spinal joint levels (with the exception of an intervening fused segment; or
 - H. Additional diagnostic facet joint injection/medial branch block at the same level(s) as a prior successful radiofrequency denervation/ablation procedure.
- V. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, *facet joint injections/medial branch blocks* have not been medically proven to be effective and are considered **investigational**, when performed for EITHER of the following indications:
- A. Unless performed as a second confirmatory block, all injections subsequent to the initial injection (i.e. therapeutic injections); or
 - B. When performed under ultrasound guidance.
- VI. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, a *diagnostic selective nerve root block* (SNRB), performed at a single nerve root and involving the introduction of anesthetic only, is considered **medically appropriate** when attempting to establish the diagnosis of radicular pain (including radiculitis) or radiculopathy when the diagnosis remains uncertain after standard evaluation (neurologic examination, radiological studies and electrodiagnostic studies) in any of the following clinical situations:
- A. When the physical signs and symptoms differ from that found on imaging studies;
 - B. When there is clinical evidence of multi-level nerve root pathology;
 - C. When the clinical presentation is suggestive, but not typical for both nerve root and peripheral nerve or joint disease involvement;
 - D. When the clinical findings are consistent with radiculopathy in a level-specific referral pattern of one or more involved named spinal root(s), but the imaging studies do not corroborate the findings (positive straight leg raise test);
 - E. When the individual has had previous spinal surgery;
 - F. For the purposes of surgical planning.
- VII. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, a *diagnostic SNRB* is considered **not medically necessary** for **EITHER** of the following:
- A. Injectates other than anesthetic, corticosteroid, and/or contrast agent; or
 - B. Any other indication (e.g. post-herpetic neuralgia).
- VIII. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, a *therapeutic SNRB* (i.e., a repeat SNRB at the same level) has not been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **investigational**.
- IX. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, a *diagnostic SNRB* at another spinal level other than the initial level is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** of the following indications:
- A. Injectates other than anesthetic, corticosteroid, and/or contrast agent;
 - B. An adequate response to the first block, as determined by the injectate utilized;
 - C. An absence of multilevel pathology when the first injection is performed under fluoroscopy/CT guidance using contrast; or
 - D. Repeating diagnostic selective nerve root blocks (SNRB) more frequently than every seven (7) days.
- X. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, *epidural steroid injections* (transforaminal, interlaminar, or caudal) have been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, are considered **medically necessary** for **ANY** of the following indications:

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- A. Treatment of presumed radiculopathy when there has been failure of at least six (6) weeks of conservative treatment (e.g., exercise, physical methods including physical therapy and/or chiropractic care, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) and/or muscle relaxants).
 - B. Treatment of presumed radiculitis or radicular pain when ALL the following criteria are met:
 - 1. Radicular pain with or without motor weakness, which follows a level-specific referral pattern of one or more involved named spinal root(s); and
 - 2. A positive straight leg raise and/or Spurlings; and
 - 3. Failure of at least six (6) weeks of conservative treatment (e.g., exercise, physical methods including physical therapy and/or chiropractic care, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) and/or muscle relaxants).
 - C. As an initial trial for symptomatic spinal stenosis when ALL the following criteria are met:
 - 1. Diagnostic evaluation has ruled out other potential causes of pain;
 - 2. MRI or CT with or without myelography within the past 24 months demonstrates moderate to severe spinal stenosis at the level to be treated;
 - 3. Significant functional limitations resulting in diminished quality of life and impaired, age-appropriate activities of daily living; and
 - 4. Failure of at least four (4) weeks of conservative treatment (e.g., exercise, physical methods including physical therapy and/or chiropractic care, NSAID's and/or muscle relaxants).
- XI. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, *repeat epidural steroid injections* are considered **medically appropriate** when at least two (2) of the following criteria are met for at least a two week duration:
- A. At least 50% relief of radicular pain;
 - B. Increase in the level of function (e.g., return to work);
 - C. Reduction in the use of pain medication and/or additional medical services such as physical therapy/chiropractic care.
- XII. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, *epidural steroid injections (ESIs)* are considered **not medically necessary** for ANY of the following:
- A. Injectates other than anesthetic, corticosteroid, and/or contrast agent;
 - B. When performed without imaging guidance (i.e., CT, Flouroscopy);
 - C. Transforaminal epidural steroid injection (TFESI) performed at more than two (2) nerve root levels during the same session/procedure;
 - D. Interlaminar epidural steroid injection (ILESI) performed at more than a single level during the same session/procedure;
 - E. Epidural steroid injection (ESI) administered in the same region as other spinal injections on the same day of service, with the exception of epidural steroid injection performed with an intra-articular facet joint injection with synovial cyst aspiration;
 - F. Performed in isolation (i.e., without the individual participating in an active rehabilitation program/home exercise program/functional restoration program);
 - G. Repeating epidural steroid injections more frequently than every 14 days;
 - H. More than three (3) epidural steroid injections per episode of pain, per region in 6 months;
 - I. More than four (4) epidural steroid injections per region, per 12 months;
 - J. Axial spinal pain (i.e., absence of radiculopathy, myelopathy, myeloradiculopathy);
 - K. Caudal epidural steroid injection (CESI) for levels above L4-L5 without supporting clinical rationale for use of alternative approaches (e.g., translaminar, transforaminal); or
 - L. Performed for post-herpatic neuralgia.
- XIII. Based upon our criteria and the lack of peer-reviewed literature, *epidural steroid injection with ultrasound guidance* for any indication has not been medically proven to be effective and is, therefore, considered **investigational**.

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Refer to Corporate Medical Policy # 2.01.24 regarding Growth Factors for Wound Healing and Other Conditions which includes platelet rich plasma.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy# 11.01.03 regarding Experimental and Investigational Services.

POLICY GUIDELINES

- I. A diagnostic *medial branch block or facet joint injection* using either a local anesthetic or a local anesthetic combined with corticosteroid is considered positive by either of the following:
 - A. A beneficial clinical response to an intra-articular facet injection or medial branch block performed with a local anesthetic with greater than 80% pain relief reported for the duration of the effect of the local anesthetic when no corticosteroids are added to the injectate; or
 - B. A beneficial clinical response to an intra-articular facet joint injection or medial branch block performed with a local anesthetic and a corticosteroid with at least a 50% reduction in pain for at least two (2) weeks.
- II. When medical necessity criteria are met, no more than two (2) *diagnostic facet joint injections/medial branch blocks* may be required, to determine whether back pain originates in the facet joint or nerves surrounding the facet joint. Subsequent facet injections/medial branch blocks are considered to be therapeutic rather than diagnostic. No more than three (3) facet joint levels may be injected during the same session/procedure.
- III. *Facet joint injections/medial branch blocks* can expose individuals to potential complications and should only be performed for neck pain or low back pain in the absence of an untreated radiculopathy (with the exception of radiculopathy caused by a facet joint synovial cyst). Diagnostic facet joint injections/medial branch blocks should, therefore, only be performed with the anticipation that if successful, radiofrequency joint denervation/ablation procedures (facet neurotomy, facet rhizotomy) would be considered as an option at the diagnosed levels.
- IV. The use of an indwelling catheter to administer a *continuous infusion/intermittent bolus* should be limited to use in a hospital setting only. It is inappropriate to represent the use of a catheter for single-episode injection(s) that is/are commonly performed in an outpatient setting as an indwelling catheter for continuous infusion/intermittent bolus.
- V. When medical necessity criteria are met, a total of three (3) epidural steroid injections (ESIs) per episode of pain, per region, may be performed in six (6) months, not to exceed four (4) epidural steroid injections (ESIs) per region, in 12 months.
- VI. When medical necessity criteria are met for an initial or repeat cervical/thoracic interlaminar (ILESI) and/or a cervical/thoracic transforaminal epidural steroid injection (TFESI), advanced diagnostic imaging should be performed within 24 months prior to the initial or repeat injection.
- VII. An *epidural steroid injection (ESI)* should be performed with the use of fluoroscopic or CT guidance and the injection of a contrast, with the exception of an emergent situation or when fluoroscopic/CT guidance or the injection of contrast is contraindicated (e.g., pregnancy).
- VIII. There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the scheduling of a “*series-of-three*” *epidural steroid injections* in either a diagnostic or therapeutic approach. The medical necessity of subsequent injections should be evaluated individually and be based on the response of the individual to the previous injection with regard to clinically relevant sustained reductions in pain, decreased need for medication, and improvement in the individual’s functional abilities.
- IX. When performing transforaminal epidural steroid injections (TFESIs) or diagnostic selective nerve root blocks (SNRBs), no more than two (2) nerve root levels should be injected during the same session/procedure.
- X. The Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP/FEP) requires that procedures, devices or laboratory tests approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered investigational and thus these procedures, devices or laboratory tests may be assessed only on the basis of their medical necessity.

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DESCRIPTION

Low back pain is a common concern, affecting up to 90% of Americans at some point in their lifetimes. Back pain is not a specific disease, but rather it is a symptom that may occur from a variety of different processes. Back pain can be divided into three (3) classifications: axial or mechanical back pain, referred pain and radicular pain. Axial pain is localized to the back. Usually certain activities aggravate the condition, and rest makes it better. This is the most common type of back pain and usually gets better with conservative treatments. Conservative treatment may include pharmacological therapy (e.g., analgesics, anti-inflammatory drugs, and muscle relaxants), exercise, spinal manipulation, acupuncture, cognitive-behavioral therapy, yoga, acupuncture, massage, and physical therapy. Referred pain is a dull achy pain that extends from the back into the extremities along the nerve path. The pain can move, vary in intensity and be sporadic. As with axial pain, treatment is usually simple, non-invasive techniques. Radicular pain is described as a deep, steady pain that radiates from the back into the extremities and is associated with particular activities such as standing, walking or sitting. Numbness, tingling and muscle weakness may accompany the pain. Sciatica is the most common version of radicular pain. Radicular pain is usually related to a compressed, inflamed nerve in the spine due to disc herniation, spinal stenosis or nerve root damage. Management of back pain that is persistent and disabling despite the use of recommended conservative treatment is challenging. Epidural injections and facet joint injections using local anesthetic and/or steroids have been employed in the treatment of back pain as an alternative to more invasive interventions.

An epidural injection is an injection into the epidural space, which is the area which surrounds the spinal cord and the nerves coming out of it. The goal of an epidural injection is to relieve pain, improve function, and reduce the need for surgical intervention by reducing inflammation and relieving inflammation-associated pressure. Epidural injections may be performed using caudal, interlaminar or transforaminal approaches. TFESI- are performed using fluoroscopy guidance in order to increase the accuracy of needle placement, avoid accidental intravascular injection, and ensure visualization of anatomical anomalies.

Facet joint injections/facet blocks (e.g., medial branch blocks) have been used to treat back pain and/or to help determine whether the facet joint is a source of pain. Facet joints (i.e., zygapophysial joints) are located in the posterior compartment of the spinal column, and provide stability and allow the spine to bend and twist. Facet joints are well innervated by the medial branches of the dorsal rami, and can be subjected to significant strain during spine loading. Degenerative changes in the posterior lumbar facet joints have been established as a source of LBP that may radiate to the leg. Pain impulses from the medial branches of lumbar dorsal rami can be interrupted by blocking these nerves with anesthetic (facet block) or coagulating them with a radiofrequency wave (radiofrequency facet denervation). Typically, facet joint blocks are performed as a part of a work-up for back or neck pain. Pain relief following a precise injection of local anesthetic confirms the facet joint as the source of pain. Based on the outcome of a facet joint nerve block, if the patient gets sufficient relief of pain but the pain recurs, denervation of the facet joint may be considered.

SNRB is a *diagnostic* injection of contrast (absent allergy to contrast) of a single nerve root to assist with surgical planning, followed by the introduction of a local anesthetic by inserting a needle into the neuroforamen under fluoroscopic or computed tomography (CT) guidance. SNRBs are erroneously referred to as transforaminal epidural steroid injection (TFESI), although technically SNRBs involve the introduction of anesthetic only and are used for diagnostic purposes. SNRBs performed for the purpose of treating pain (i.e., repeat SNRB at the same level) may be termed *therapeutic* selective nerve root blocks. There is insufficient evidence to support the clinical utility of *therapeutic* SNRBs.

For determining a precise location for injection therapy and to avoid complications, spinal injections have been performed primarily by fluoroscopic or computed tomographic (CT) guidance. Recently, ultrasound –guided injections have been explored.

RATIONALE

Epidural injections

Overall, the evidence for the use of diagnostic and therapeutic injections in the treatment of acute and chronic back pain is limited. Clinical studies have demonstrated that epidural steroid injections have provided short-term improvement and

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may be considered in the treatment of selected patients with radicular pain as part of an active therapy program. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that epidural steroid injections are effective in the treatment of back pain in the absence of radicular symptoms.

Buenaventura and colleagues (2009) conducted a systematic review to evaluate the effectiveness of lumbar transforaminal epidural injections in managing chronic radicular pain. Of the 4 randomized controlled trials evaluating transforaminal epidural steroid injections, all showed positive results for short-term relief; 2 studies were positive for long-term relief; the results for long-term relief were not available in 1 and one study had negative long-term relief results.

Abdi et al. (2007) conducted a systemic review of published trials and abstracts of scientific meetings, published between January 1966 and October 2006, to determine the efficacy and safety of epidural steroid injections (ESIs). The primary outcome measure was pain relief. Other outcome measures were functional improvement, improvement of psychological status, and return to work. They identified 11 randomized trials of lumbar interlaminar ESI. Of these studies, eight (8) had favorable results for short-term (less than six (6) weeks) relief and one (1) was positive for long-term (six (6) weeks) relief. The level of evidence for interlaminar ESIs was considered strong for short-term pain relief and limited for long-term pain relief. There were seven (7) randomized trials of lumbar transforaminal ESI (TFESI), five (5) of which had favorable results for both short- and long-term pain relief. The level of evidence for TFESI was considered strong for short-term pain relief and moderate for long-term pain relief. Of the eight (8) randomized trials of caudal ESIs, five (5) had favorable results for short-term pain relief and four (4) had favorable results for long-term pain relief. The level of evidence for caudal epidural injections was considered strong for short-term relief and moderate for long-term relief.

Novak, et al. (2008) conducted a systematic review to evaluate the evidence in support of guidelines on frequency and timing of epidural steroid injections in order to help determine what sort of response should occur to repeat an injection. The review included 11 randomized controlled trials, one (1) prospective controlled trial, and two (2) prospective cohort studies. The authors stated that many of the problems with this type of research stem from a lack of understanding of the underlying mechanisms of radicular pain and a lack of understanding of how epidural steroid injections provide an effect. The underlying mechanism of glucocorticoid activity is not clearly understood, and there is no indication for repeat injection based solely on the characteristics of the medication itself. The authors concluded that there is limited evidence to suggest guidelines for frequency and timing of epidural steroid injections or to help define an appropriate partial response that would trigger a repeat injection. Research suggests that repeat injections may improve outcomes, but conclusions cannot be made due to methodological limitations of the available evidence. The authors concluded that there does not appear to be any evidence to support the common practice of a series of injections.

The American Pain Society's evidenced-based clinical practice guideline based on the systematic review by R Chou and colleagues (2009) noted the following: It is recommended that interdisciplinary rehabilitation be considered as a treatment option for persistent, disabling low back pain that does not respond to usual, non-interdisciplinary therapies. For persistent non-radicular low back pain, facet joint corticosteroid injection, prolotherapy, and intradiscal corticosteroid injection are not recommended, and there is insufficient evidence to reliably guide recommendations on use of other interventional therapies. A shared decision-making process including a detailed discussion of risks, moderate average benefits, and treatment alternatives is recommended to guide decisions regarding surgery. For radicular low back pain, a shared decision-making process including a detailed discussion of risks and inconsistent evidence regarding short-term benefits is recommended to guide decisions regarding epidural steroid injection. A shared decision-making process is also recommended to guide decisions regarding surgery for spinal stenosis and prolapsed lumbar disc, though supporting evidence is stronger than for surgery for non-radicular low back pain.

The results of a systematic review by AT Parr and colleagues (2012) evaluating the effect of caudal epidural injections with or without steroids in managing various types of chronic low back and lower extremity pain has shown good evidence for short- and long-term relief of chronic pain secondary to disc herniation or radiculitis with local anesthetic and steroids and fair relief with local anesthetic only. Further, this systematic review also provided only fair evidence for caudal epidural injections in managing chronic axial or discogenic pain, spinal stenosis, and post-surgery syndrome.

Facet injections

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Generally, the outcomes from clinical studies show a diagnostic facet joint injection may assist in determining whether specific interventions targeting the facet joint are indicated. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that therapeutic facet joint injections are effective in the treatment of back pain, however. Guidelines from the American Pain Society (Chou, et al. 2009) note that there is fair to good quality evidence that facet joint injections are not effective. Guidelines from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons state that facet injections are not recommended as long-term treatment for chronic low-back pain. Guidelines from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine state that therapeutic facet joint injections for acute, subacute, chronic low back pain or radicular pain syndrome are not recommended. An assessment by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (updated 2011) concluded that evidence of the safety and efficacy of therapeutic facet joint injections for low back pain was lacking and of low quality. They also noted conflicting evidence related to the efficacy of diagnostic facet joint injections.

Use of ultrasonic guidance

There is no evidence in the peer-reviewed literature regarding the overall health benefit of the use of ultrasonic guidance during spinal injections over the use of fluoroscopy or CT-guidance.

CODES

- Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.
- **CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.**
- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

CPT Codes

Code	Description
62320	Injection(s), of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (e.g., anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, including needle or catheter placement, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, cervical or thoracic; without imaging guidance
62321	with imaging guidance (e.g., CT or fluoroscopy)
62322	Injection(s), of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (e.g., anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, including needle or catheter placement, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, lumbar or sacral (caudal); without imaging guidance
62323	with imaging guidance (e.g., CT or fluoroscopy)
62324	Injection(s), including indwelling catheter placement, continuous infusion or intermittent bolus, of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (eg, anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, cervical or thoracic; without imaging guidance
62325	Injection(s), including indwelling catheter placement, continuous infusion or intermittent bolus, of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (eg, anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, cervical or thoracic; with imaging guidance (ie, fluoroscopy or CT)

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Code	Description
62326	Injection(s), including indwelling catheter placement, continuous infusion or intermittent bolus, of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (eg, anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, lumbar or sacral (caudal); without imaging guidance
62327	Injection(s), including indwelling catheter placement, continuous infusion or intermittent bolus, of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (eg, anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, lumbar or sacral (caudal); with imaging guidance (ie, fluoroscopy or CT)
64479-64480	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); cervical or thoracic (code range)
64483-64484	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); lumbar or sacral (code range)
64490-64492	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), cervical or thoracic (code range)
64493-64495	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), lumbar or sacral (code range)
0213T-0218T (E/I)	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with ultrasound guidance (code range)
0228T-0231T (E/I)	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with ultrasound guidance (code range)

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HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
None	

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
multiple	

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*Key Article

KEY WORDS

Epidural injection, Facet injection, Injection therapy, Medical branch block, Spinal injection, Ultrasound-guidance

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There are currently Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) for facet injections and lumbar epidural injections. Please refer to the following LCD websites for Medicare Members:

Facet injections: [https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35936&ver=22&CntrctrSelected=298*1&Cntrctr=298&name=National+Government+Services%2c+Inc.+\(13201%2c+A+and+B+and+HHH+MAC%2cJ++K\)&s=All&DocType=Active&bc=AggAAAQBAAAA&](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35936&ver=22&CntrctrSelected=298*1&Cntrctr=298&name=National+Government+Services%2c+Inc.+(13201%2c+A+and+B+and+HHH+MAC%2cJ++K)&s=All&DocType=Active&bc=AggAAAQBAAAA&)

Lumbar epidural injections: https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=35937&ver=15&CntrctrSelected=298*1&Cntrctr=298&s=41&DocType=All&bc=AAgAAAQBAA&

There is currently a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) which addresses Category III CPT codes. Please refer to the following website for Medicare Members: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd->

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<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?LCDId=33392&ver=98&SearchType=Advanced&CoverageSelection=Both&NCSelection=NCA%7cCAL%7cNCD%7cMEDCAC%7cTA%7cMCD&ArticleType=SAD&PolicyType=Both&s=41&Keyword=category+III&KeywordLookUp=Doc&KeywordSearchType=Exact&kq=true&bc=IAAAACAAAA&>

There is a Local Coverage Article which addresses billing and coding for Category III CPT codes. Please refer to the following website for Medicare Members: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=56195&ver=21&LCDId=33392&SearchType=Advanced&CoverageSelection=Both&NCSelection=NCA%7cCAL%7cNCD%7cMEDCAC%7cTA%7cMCD&ArticleType=SAD&PolicyType=Both&s=41&Keyword=category+III&KeywordLookUp=Doc&KeywordSearchType=Exact&kq=true&bc=IAAAACABAAA&>