



## REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT GEORGIA MARKETPLACE PLANS

Policy Name		Policy Number	Effective Date
Sacroiliac Joint Procedures		PY-1132	04/01/2020
Policy Type			
Medical	Administrative	Pharmacy	REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement Policy Statement: Reimbursement Policies prepared by CSMG Co. and its affiliates (including CareSource) are intended to provide a general reference regarding billing, coding and documentation guidelines. Coding methodology, regulatory requirements, industry-standard claims editing logic, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing Reimbursement Policies.

In addition to this Policy, Reimbursement of services is subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreement, and applicable referral, authorization, notification and utilization management guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any federal or state coverage mandate, Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

This Policy does not ensure an authorization or Reimbursement of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced herein. If there is a conflict between this Policy and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

CSMG Co. and its affiliates may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this Policy to services provided in a particular case and may modify this Policy at any time.

### Table of Contents

Reimbursement Policy Statement .....	1
A. Subject.....	2
B. Background.....	2
C. Definitions .....	2
D. Policy .....	2
E. Conditions of Coverage.....	3
F. Related Policies/Rules .....	3
G. Review/Revision History .....	3
H. References .....	3



## A. Subject

### **Sacroiliac Joint Procedures**

## B. Background

Reimbursement policies are designed to assist you when submitting claims to CareSource. They are routinely updated to promote accurate coding and policy clarification. These proprietary policies are not a guarantee of payment. Reimbursement for claims may be subject to limitations and/or qualifications. Reimbursement will be established based upon a review of the actual services provided to a member and will be determined when the claim is received for processing. Health care providers and their office staff are encouraged to use self-service channels to verify member's eligibility.

It is the responsibility of the submitting provider to submit the most accurate and appropriate CPT/HCPCS code(s) for the product or service that is being provided. The inclusion of a code in this policy does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claims payment.

Nearly 84% of adults experience back pain during their lifetime. Long term outcomes are largely favorable for most patients, but a small percentage of patient's symptoms are categorized as chronic. Chronic pain is defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain as: "pain that persists beyond normal tissue healing time, which is assumed to be three months".

Interventional procedures for management of acute and chronic pain are part of a comprehensive pain management care plan that incorporates conservative treatment in a multimodality approach. Multidisciplinary treatments include promoting patient self-management and aim to reduce the impact of pain on a patient's daily life, even if the pain cannot be relieved completely. Interventional procedures for the management of pain unresponsive to conservative treatment should be provided only by physicians qualified to deliver these health services.

## C. Definitions

- **Sacroiliac Joint Procedures:** corticosteroid and local anesthetic therapeutic injections into the SIJ to treat pain that hasn't responded to conservative therapies.

## D. Policy

### I. Sacroiliac Joint Procedures

- A. A prior authorization (PA) is required for each sacroiliac joint injection for pain management. Documentation, including dates of service, for conservative therapies are not required for PA, but must be available upon request.
- B. Sacroiliac joint injections
  1. Two (2) diagnostic injections per joint to evaluate pain and attain therapeutic effect, repeating no more than once every seven (7) days and with at least a 75% or > reduction in pain after the first injection.
  2. Once the diagnostic injections are performed and the diagnosis is established, two (2) therapeutic injections per joint may be performed over a 12 month period.
  3. Injections should not be repeated more frequently than every two (2) months with no more than a total of four (4) injections (including both diagnostic and therapeutic) per joint in 12 months.



- C. Radiofrequency Facet Ablation for Sacroiliac Pain
  - 1. Thermal or pulsed, cooled neurotomy by Radiofrequency Facet Ablation (RFA) or other techniques for sacroiliac pain are **NOT** covered.

**E. Conditions of Coverage**

Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved HCPCS and CPT codes along with appropriate modifiers, if applicable. Please refer to the CMS fee schedule for appropriate codes.

- **The following list(s) of codes is provided as a reference. This list may not be all inclusive and is subject to updates.**

Sacroiliac Joint Procedures	Description
27096	Injection procedure for sacroiliac joint, anesthetic/steroid, with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT) including arthrography when performed

**F. Related Policies/Rules**

Sacroiliac Joint Procedures MM-0955

**G. Review/Revision History**

	DATE	ACTION
Date Issued	12/11/2019	
Date Revised		
Date Effective	04/01/2020	New Policy
Date Archived		

**H. References**

- 1. CMS Physicians Fee Schedule . (n.d.). Retrieved November 8, 2019, from <https://www.cms.gov/apps/physician-fee-schedule/search/search-criteria.aspx>.

**The Reimbursement Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Reimbursement Policy Statement Policy and is approved.**