

## REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT INDIANA MARKETPLACE PLANS

Policy Name		Policy Number	Effective Date
Facet Medial Branch Nerve Blocks		PY-1062	03/01/2020
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.

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## A. Subject

### Facet Medial Branch Nerve Blocks

## 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

- Facet Medial Branch Nerve Blocks: Injection of a local anesthetic with or without a corticosteroid into the vicinity of the medial branch nerves of the dorsal rami.

## D. Policy

### I. Facet Medial Branch Nerve Blocks

- A. A prior authorization (PA) is required for each facet medial branch nerve block injection for pain management. Documentation, including dates of service, for conservative therapies are not required for PA but must be available upon request.
  1. Dual MBBs (a series of two MBBs) are necessary to diagnose facet pain due to the unacceptably high false positive rate of single MBB injections.
    - a. A second confirmatory MBB is allowed if documentation indicates the first MBB produced significant relief of primary (index) pain  $\geq 50\%$ .
  2. A maximum of six (6) facet injection sessions inclusive of medial branch blocks, intraarticular injections, and facet cyst rupture and facet medial branch neurtomies may be performed per rolling 12 months in the cervical/thoracic spine and six (6) in the lumbar spine.
  3. Neither conscious sedation nor Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) is routinely necessary for intra-articular facet joint injections or medial branch blocks and are not routinely reimbursable. Individual consideration may be given for payment in rare unique circumstances if the medical necessity of sedation is unequivocal and clearly documented.



4. Per CPT guidelines, imaging guidance and any injection of contrast are inclusive components of all facet medial branch nerve blocks and are not reimbursed separately.

### 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.**

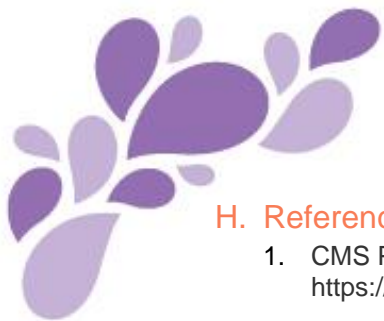
Facet Medial Branch Nerve Blocks	Description
64490	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), cervical or thoracic; single level
64491	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), cervical or thoracic; second level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
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; third and any additional level(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
64493	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), lumbar or sacral; single level
64494	Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), lumbar or sacral; second level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
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; third and any additional level(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

### F. Related Policies/Rules

Facet Medial Branch Nerve Blocks MM-0158

### G. Review/Revision History

	DATE	ACTION
Date Issued	12/11/2019	
Date Revised	N/A	
Date Effective	03/01/2020	
Date Archived		



#### H. References

1. CMS Physician's 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.**