



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Wisconsin Marketplace

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Pain Management Physicians-WI MP-AD-1467	09/01/2026
Policy Type	
ADMINISTRATIVE	

Administrative Policy Statements are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy 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 Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other plan policies and procedures.

Administrative Policy Statements do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Administrative Policy Statement. Except as otherwise required by law, if there is a conflict between the Administrative Policy Statement and the plan contract, then the plan contract will be the controlling document used to make the determination.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

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A. Subject

Pain Management Physicians

B. Background

Physicians who have obtained additional education/certification to practice in the field of pain medicine are able to help members manage and treat pain.

C. Definitions

- **American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)** – An organization of medical specialty boards with shared goals and standards related to the certification of medical specialists, including initial specialty and subspecialty certification, as well as maintenance of certification throughout the provider's career.
- **American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM)** – An organization that administers a psychometrically-developed and practice-related examination in the field of Pain Medicine to qualified candidates. Providers who have successfully completed the ABPM credentialing process and examination will be issued certificates as specialists in the field of Pain Medicine and designated as Diplomates of the American Board of Pain Medicine.
- **American Osteopathic Association (AOA)** – An organization of osteopathic specialty boards with shared goals and standards related to the certification of osteopathic specialties. Certification includes primary certification, certification of special or added qualifications and osteopathic continuous certification.
- **Pain Management** – The medical discipline concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of painful disorders.

D. Policy

- I. All the following criteria must be met for providers to achieve successful credentialing as pain management specialists:
 - A. Successful completion of residency in a pertinent residency program, such as
 - neurology
 - neurosurgery
 - physical medicine and rehabilitation
 - anesthesiology
 - B. Board certification in 1 of the above specialties, as recognized by ABMS, AOA, or ABPM
 - C. Successful completion of fellowship training in pain medicine or anesthesiology certification in pain management
 - D. Additional board certification in Pain Management by 1 of the following pathways is preferred:
 1. American Board of Anesthesiology, subspecialty in Pain Medicine
 2. American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, subspecialty in Pain Medicine
 3. American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, subspecialty in Pain Medicine

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

4. American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology, certification of added qualifications in Pain Management
 5. American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine, certification of added qualifications in Pain Management
 6. American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, certification of added qualifications in Pain Management
 7. American Board of Pain Medicine (not an ABMS or AOA specialty)
- II. Providers board certified in 1 of the above specialties, but without additional pain management fellowship training or certification (anesthesia route), will not be credentialed in pain management.
- III. Primary care providers and specialists other than those listed above will not be credentialed as pain management providers. Providers who receive additional training in pain management and intend to do a non-interventional pain management practice will not be credentialed or listed as pain management providers but will be privileged to do pain management as part of general medical practice depending on current level of training and experience.
- IV. All providers who do not meet requirements I.A-I.C will be reviewed by the credentialing committee for further consideration.

E. Conditions of Coverage

NA

F. Related Policies/Rules

NA

G. Review/Revision History

DATE		ACTION
Date Issued	08/14/2024	New market, approved at Committee
Date Revised	09/10/2025	Review: updated logo, changed physician to provider, approved at Committee.
	10/08/2025	Review: updated references, approved at Committee.
	06/17/2026	Review: changed title from <i>Pain Management Providers</i> to <i>Pain Management Physicians</i> and updated references. Approved at Committee.
Date Effective	09/01/2026	
Date Archived		

H. References

1. *ABMS Guide to Medical Specialties*. American Board of Medical Specialties; 2026. Accessed April 2, 2026. www.abms.org

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2. Certification Examination in Pain Medicine. 2026 Bulletin of Information. American Board of Pain Medicine. Accessed April 2, 2026. www.abpm.org
3. Specialties and subspecialties. American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Board Certification. Accessed April 2, 2026. www.certification.osteopathic.org

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