Coverage Summary

Pain Management and Pain Rehabilitation

Policy Number: P-007  Products: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans  Original Approval Date: 07/16/2008

Approved by: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Benefit Interpretation Committee  Last Review Date: 03/19/2019

Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines:
- Assessing Patient's Suitability for Electrical Nerve Stimulation Therapy (NCD 160.7.1)
- Autogenous Epidural Blood Graft (NCD 10.5)
- Epidural Injection
- Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (NCD 10.3)
- Outpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (NCD 10.4)
- Prolotherapy, Joint Sclerotherapy, and Ligamentous Injections with Sclerosing Agents (NCD 150.7)
- Ultrasound and Fluoroscopic Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections

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The benefit information in this Coverage Summary is based on existing national coverage policy, however Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable.

There are instances where this document may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG). In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence (Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5).

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Coverage Statement: Pain management and pain rehabilitation are covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met.

DME Face to Face Requirement: Effective July 1, 2013, Section 6407 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a face-to-face encounter requirement for certain items of DME (including transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation; form fitting conductive garments for delivery of TENS or NMES; neuromuscular stimulator electric shock unit and transcutaneous electrical joint stimulation system). For DME Face to Face Requirement information, refer to the Coverage Summary for Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics) and Medical Supplies Grid.

Guidelines/Notes:
1. Inpatient Pain Rehabilitation Programs
   Inpatient rehabilitation programs are covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met. For coverage guideline, see the NCD for Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.3). (Accessed November 6, 2018)

2. Outpatient Pain Rehabilitation Program
   Outpatient pain rehabilitation programs are covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met. For coverage guideline, see the NCD for Outpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.4). (Accessed November 6, 2018)

3. Stimulators for Pain Management
   For coverage guidelines for stimulators for pain management, e.g., Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (PENS) and Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy (PNT) for Pain Therapy (e.g., BioWave); Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) for Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP), see the Coverage Summary for Stimulators: Electrical and Spinal Cord Stimulators.

4. Autogenous Epidural Blood Graft
   In this procedure blood is removed from the patient's vein and injected into his epidural space, to seal the spinal fluid leak and stop the pain.
   Autogenous epidural blood graft is covered for headaches post spinal anesthesia, spinal taps or myelograms. See the NCD for Autogenous Epidural Blood Graft (10.5). (Accessed November 6, 2018)

5. Decompression Procedure, Percutaneous, of Nucleus Pulposus (CPT code 62287); see the Coverage Summary for Spine Procedures.
6. **Massage Therapy**

   Massage therapy is **not covered except** if it is part of multi-modality authorized treatment plan appropriate to the member’s diagnosis plan with a licensed therapist in attendance. Refer to the Coverage Summary for Rehabilitation: Medical Rehabilitation (OT, PT and ST, Including Cognitive Rehabilitation).

7. **Infusion Pumps for Pain**

   Infusion pumps for pain are **covered** when criteria are met. See the Coverage Summary for Infusion Pump Therapy.

8. **Epidural Injections**
   
   a. **Cervical and Thoracic Epidural Injections** (CPT codes 62320, 62321, 64479 and 64480)
      
      - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for cervical and thoracic epidural injections.
      - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment B).
      - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs**, refer to the MCG™ Care Guidelines, 23rd edition, 2019, Epidural Corticosteroid Injection - A-0225 (AC) for information regarding medical necessity review. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
      - Committee approval date: March 19, 2019
      - Accessed May 1, 2019

   b. **Lumbar and Sacral Epidural Injections** (CPT codes 62322, 62323, 64483 and 64484)
      
      - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for lumbar and sacral epidural injections.
      - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A).
      - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs**, see the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Epidural Steroid and Facet Injections for Spinal Pain for coverage guideline. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
      - Committee approval date: September 18, 2018
      - Accessed May 1, 2019

   c. **Other Epidural Injections/Infusions** (CPT codes 62324, 62325, 62326 and 62327)
      
      Examples include but are not limited to: Treatment of spasticity, acute post-operative care management.
      
      - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for specific types of epidural injections listed above.
      - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment J).
      - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs**, see the Novitas LCD for Epidural Injections for Pain...
Management (L36920) for coverage guideline. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.

- **Committee approval date:** September 18, 2018
- **Accessed:** May 1, 2019

9. Paravertebral Facet Joint/Nerve Blocks and Nerve Denervation
   a. Diagnostic and Therapeutic (CPT codes 64490, 64491, 64492, 64493, 64494 and 64495)
      - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for paravertebral facet joint/nerve blocks: diagnostic and therapeutic.
      - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment C).
      - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs,** see the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Epidural Steroid and Facet Injections for Spinal Pain for coverage guideline. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.
      - **Committee approval date:** September 18, 2018
      - **Accessed:** May 1, 2019

   b. Paravertebral Joint/Nerve Denervation (CPT codes 64633, 64634, 64635 and 64636)
      - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for paravertebral facet joint/nerve denervation.
      - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment D).
      - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs,** see the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Ablative Treatment for Spinal Pain for coverage guideline. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.
      - **Committee approval date:** September 18, 2018
      - **Accessed:** May 1, 2019

10. Trigger Point Injections (CPT codes 20552 and 20553)
    - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for trigger point injections.
    - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment E).
    - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs,** see the Wisconsin Physicians Services LCD for Trigger Points, Local Injection (L34588) for coverage guidelines. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.
    - **Committee approval date:** September 18, 2018
    - **Accessed:** May 1, 2019

11. Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Injections (CPT codes 27096 and G0260)
    - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for SI joint injections.
    - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the
LCD Availability Grid (Attachment F).

- **For states with no LCDs/LCAs**, see the National Government Services LCD for Pain Management (L33622) for coverage guideline. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
- **Committee approval date: January 15, 2019**
- **Accessed May 1, 2019**

12. Injections of Tendon Sheaths, Ligaments, Ganglion Cysts, Carpal and Tarsal Tunnels and Morton’s Neuroma (CPT codes 20526, 20550, 20551, 20612 and 28899)
   - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for specific types of injections for pain listed above.
   - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment G).
   - **Committee approval date: September 18, 2018**
   - **Accessed May 1, 2019**

13. Injection, Anesthetic Agent, Greater Occipital Nerve (CPT code 64405)
   - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for injection, anesthetic agent, greater occipital nerve (CPT code 64405).
   - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment H).
   - **Committee approval date: September 18, 2018**
   - **Accessed May 1, 2019**

14. Decompression; Unspecified Nerve (CPT code 64722) and Transection or Avulsion of; Greater Occipital Nerve (CPT code 64744) for Treatment of Headaches
   - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for decompression; unspecified nerve (CPT code 64722) and transection or avulsion of the greater occipital nerve (CPT Code 64744) specific to the treatment of headaches.
   - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) do not exist at this time.
   - **For coverage guidelines, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Occipital Neuralgia and Headache Treatment** for coverage guideline. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
   - **Committee approval date: September 18, 2018**
   - **Accessed November 6, 2018**

15. Presacral Neurectomy and Uterine Nerve Ablation for Pelvic Pain
- Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for presacral neurectomy and uterine nerve ablation for pelvic pain.

- Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) do not exist at this time.

- **For coverage guidelines**, refer to the MCG™ Care Guidelines, 23rd edition, 2019, Presacral Neurectomy S-0236 (AC) for information regarding medical necessity review. **(IMPORTANT NOTE:** After searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)

- Committee approval date: March 19, 2019

Accessed March 7, 2019

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16. **Endoscopic Lysis of Adhesions by Use of Epiduroscope (CPT codes 62263 and 62264)**

- Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for endoscopic lysis of adhesions by use of epiduroscope.

- Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment I).

- **For states with no LCDs/LCAs, see the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy for Epiduroscopy, Epidural Lysis of Adhesions and Functional Anesthetic Discography** for coverage guideline. **(IMPORTANT NOTE:** After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)

- Committee approval date: September 18, 2018

Accessed May 1, 2019

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17. **Prolotherapy, Joint Sclerotherapy and Ligamentous Injections with Sclerosing Agents**

The medical effectiveness of the above therapies has not been verified by scientifically controlled studies. Accordingly, reimbursement for these modalities should be denied on the grounds that they are not reasonable and necessary. See the **NCD for Prolotherapy, Joint Sclerotherapy, and Ligamentous Injections with Sclerosing Agents (150.7)**. (Accessed August 30, 2018)

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**II. DEFINITIONS**

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**III REFERENCES**

See above

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**IV REVISION HISTORY**

04/01/2019

- Updated policy introduction; added language to clarify:
  - There are instances where [the Coverage Summary] may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG)
  - In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence (*Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5*)

- Retitled reference links that direct users to UnitedHealthcare Commercial policies

03/19/2019

Re-review with the following updates:
Guideline 8 [Cervical and Thoracic Epidural Injections (CPT codes 62320, 62321, 64479 and 64480)] - updated MCG™ reference from 22nd edition, 2018 to 23rd edition, 2019; no change in MCG™ guideline; no change in the Coverage Summary guideline.

Guideline 15 (Presacral Neurectomy and Uterine Nerve Ablation for Pelvic Pain) - updated MCG™ reference from 22nd edition, 2018 to 23rd edition, 2019; no change in MCG™ guideline; no change in the Coverage Summary guideline.

01/15/2019 Guideline 11 [Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Injections (CPT codes 27096 and G0260)] – changed default for states without LCDs from Novitas LCD for Paravertebral Facet and Sacroiliac Joint Injections (L34892) (LCD no longer addresses CPT 27096) to National Government Services LCD for Pain Management (L33622).

09/18/2018 Annual review with the following updates:

Updated Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Availability Grids; remove instruction to “use the applicable LCD based on member’s residence/place and type of service” (this note only applies when selecting the appropriate DME LCD Policy)

Guideline 8.c [Other Epidural Injections/Infusions (CPT codes 62324, 62325, 62326 and 62327)] - changed default for states without LCDs from Noridian L35457 to Novitas L36920 (only one contractor that mentions all CPT codes in guideline title)

Guideline 9.b [Paravertebral Joint/Nerve Denervation (CPT codes 64633, 64634, 64635 and 64636)] - deleted CPT code “64999” from title and LCD Avail. Grid (not in available LCDs)

Guideline 16 [Endoscopic Lysis of Adhesions by Use of Epiduroscope (CPT codes 62263 and 62264)

   deleted CPT code “62292” from guideline title and LCD Avail. Grid (not in available LCDs or UHC MP)

   deleted CPT code “64999” from guideline title and LCD Avail. Grid (not in available LCDs)

03/20/2018 Re-review with the following updates:

Guideline 1 (Inpatient Pain Rehabilitation Programs) - deleted the specific detailed guidelines; exact same language already addressed in the reference NCD for Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.3); replaced with the following language:

   Inpatient rehabilitation programs are covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met. For coverage guideline, see the NCD for Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.3).

Guideline 2 (Outpatient Pain Rehabilitation Program) – deleted the specific detailed guidelines; exact language already addressed in the reference NCD for Outpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.4); replaced with following language:

   Outpatient pain rehabilitation programs are covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met. For coverage guideline, see the NCD for Outpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.4).

Guideline 3 (Pain Rehabilitation programs may include, but not limited to) - deleted the entire guideline section; exact same guideline already in reference NCD for Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.3) which is already cross reference under Guideline 1; also deleted the note pertaining to peripheral nerve stimulators with reference
link to the NCD for Assessing Patient's Suitability for Electrical Nerve Stimulation Therapy (160.7.1) as same information is addressed in the Coverage Summary for Electrical and Spinal Cord Stimulators.

Guideline 3 (Stimulators for Pain Management) – new section; added the following language:

For coverage guidelines for stimulators for pain management, e.g., Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (PENS) and Percutaneous Neuromodulation Therapy (PNT) for Pain Therapy (e.g., BioWave); Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) for Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP), see the Coverage Summary for Stimulators: Electrical and Spinal Cord Stimulators.

Guideline 5 (Peripheral Nerve Stimulators) – deleted guideline; same coverage language is addressed in the Coverage Summary for Stimulators: Electrical and Spinal Cord Stimulators.

Guideline 5 [Decompression procedure, percutaneous, of nucleus pulposus (CPT code 62287)] – formatting only; moved from bottom of page

Guideline 7 (Pain Pumps) – changed title from “Pain Pumps” to “Infusion Pumps for Pain”


Guideline 18 [(Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) for Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP)] – deleted this section, duplicate information; same language already in the CS for Electric Stimulators.

Definitions

- In-hospital Level Pain Rehabilitation Program - deleted; definition already in the reference NCD for Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.3)
- Pain Rehabilitation Program - deleted; definition already in the reference NCD for Inpatient Hospital Pain Rehabilitation Programs (10.3)

02/20/2018 Re-review with the following updates:

Guideline 8.a-c (Epidural Injections) – Updated the applicable LCDs to include the most recent website links and effective dates related to the Cahaba-Palmetto jurisdiction transition; no change in guideline.

Guideline 9.a-b (Paravertebral Facet Joint/Nerve Blocks and Nerve Denervation Injections) – Updated the applicable LCDs to include the most recent website links and effective dates related to the Cahaba-Palmetto jurisdiction transition; no change in guideline.

Guideline 10 (Trigger Point Injections) – Updated the applicable LCDs to include the most recent website links and effective dates related to the Cahaba-Palmetto jurisdiction transition; no change in guideline.

Guideline 16 (Endoscopic Lysis of Adhesions by Use of Epiduroscope) – Updated the applicable LCDs to include the most recent website links and effective dates related to the Cahaba-Palmetto jurisdiction transition; no change in guideline.

10/17/2017 Annual review with the following updates:

- Guideline 8.a [Lumbar and Sacral Epidural Injections (CPT codes 62322, 62323,
replaced “Transforaminal” with “and Sacral Epidural Injections” in guideline title and renumber guideline to 8.b (to have in anatomical order)
- moved CPT codes 62326-27 to guideline 8.c.
- Guideline 8.b [Cervical and Thoracic Epidural Injections (CPT codes 62320, 62321, 64479 and 64480)] – renumber guideline to guideline 8.a (to have in anatomical order)
- Guideline 8.c [Other Epidural Injections/Infusions (CPT codes 62324, 62325, 62326 and 62327)] – added CPT codes 62326-27 to title

04/18/2017  Re-review; deleted guidelines for the following:
- Guideline 16 (Pain Examination under Anesthesia)
- Guideline 18 (Pharmacologic Challenges for Sympathetically Maintained Pain using IV Medications)

03/21/2017  Re-review with the following updates:

01/17/2017  Re-review; with the following updates:
- Guideline 8.a [Lumbar–Transforaminal (CPT codes 62322, 62323, 62326, 62327, 64483 and 64484)] –
- Added new 2017 CPT codes 62322-23, 62326-27
- Removed non-applicable codes 64479-80 (these are cervical/thoracic codes)
  - Guideline 8.b [Cervical and Thoracic Epidural Injections (CPT codes 62320, 62321, 64479 and 64480)] –
    - CPT codes 62310 deleted and replaced with 62320-21 for 2017
    - Added applicable CPT codes 64479 and 64480
  - Guideline 8.c [Other Epidural Injections/Infusions (CPT codes 62324 and 62325)]
    - CPT codes 62318-62319 deleted for 2017 and replaced by CPT codes 62324 and 62325
    - Change default from L35458 (retired ) to L35457 (same contractor; also there is no change in coverage)

08/16/2016  Re-review with the following update:
Guideline 15 (Presacral Neurectomy and Uterine Nerve Ablation for Pelvic Pain) - changed default policy from the UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy for Presacral Neurectomy and Uterine Nerve Ablation for Pelvic Pain to the MCG™ Care Guidelines, 20th edition, 2016, Presacral Neurectomy S-0236 (AC); UHC MP retired effective 9/1/2016. (Reason for retirement: procedures are rarely performed, supporting evidence is weak and addressed in MCG for medical necessity review).

07/26/2016  Re-review with the following updates:
Guideline 8.b [Cervical and Thoracic Epidural Injections (CPT codes 62310 and 62311)] – New guidelines to coverage summary.

Guideline 8.c [Other Epidural Injections/Infusions (CPT codes 62318 and 62319)] –
  o Added “Infusions” to title.
  o Replaced the default policy for states with no LCDs from Wisconsin Physicians Services LCD for Epidural and Transforaminal Epidural Injections (L34622) (retired) to the Novitas LCD for Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy (L35458). L35458 has the most geographic coverage; no available UHC MP or MCG.
  o Removed CPT code 01996 from title (unable to find appropriate CMS reference).
  o Moved CPT codes 62310 and 62311 to Guideline 8.b.

06/21/2016 Re-review with the following updates:

Guideline 11 [Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Injections] - Changed the default policy for states with no LCDs from Wisconsin Physicians Services LCD for Sacroiliac Joint Injections Sacroiliac Joint Injections (L34443) (now retired) to Novitas LCD for Transforaminal Epidural, Paravertebral Facet and Sacroiliac Joint Injections (L34892); L34892 with the most geographic coverage; no available UHC MP or MCG.

Guideline 12 (Injections of tendon sheaths, ligaments, ganglion cysts, carpal and tarsal tunnels and Morton’s Neuroma) - Changed the default policy for states with no LCDs from LCD for Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma (L34589) (now retired) to Noridian LCD for Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma (L34076); L34076 with the most geographic coverage; no available UHC MP or MCG.

03/15/2016 Updated reference link(s) of the applicable LCDs to reflect the condensed link.

10/20/2015 Annual review; no updates

07/21/2015 Guideline #13 [Injection, anesthetic agent, greater occipital nerve (CPT Code 64405)] - Added following verbiage “and allow for individual consideration for coverage of nerve blocks when used to diagnose occipital neuralgia” to “For states with no LCDs” statement.

04/21/2015 Guideline #20 (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation for Chronic Low Back Pain)
  • Added reference link to the list of Medicare approved clinical trials.
  • Updated payment info; added reference link to the Coverage Summary for Experimental Procedures and Items, Investigational Devices and Clinical Trials for payment rules for NCDs requiring CED.

03/12/2015 Formatting change only.

01/20/2015 Guideline 8 (Specific Type of Injections)
  o Changed title to “Epidural Injections”
  o Reformatted/re-organized to the following new sections:
    ➢ Guideline 8.a (Epidural Injections/Lumbar – Transforaminal (CPT codes 64479, 64480, 64483 & 64484)
    ➢ Guideline 8.b (Epidural Injection/Other Epidural Injections
    ➢ Guideline 9.a [Paravertebral Facet Joint/Nerve Blocks and Nerve Denervation/Diagnostic and Therapeutic (CPT codes 64490, 64491, 64492, 64493, 64494 & 64495)]
    ➢ Guideline 9.b [Paravertebral Facet Joint / Paravertebral Joint/Nerve Denervation (CPT codes 64633, 64634, 64635, 64636 & 64999)]
- Guideline 10 [Trigger Point Injections (CPT Codes 20552 & 20553)]
- Guideline 11 [Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Injections (CPT codes 27096 & G0260)]
- Guideline 12 [Injections of tendon sheaths, ligaments, ganglion cysts, carpal and tarsal tunnels and Morton’s Neuroma (CPT codes 20526, 20550, 20551, 20612 & 28899)]
  - Added “Injection, anesthetic agent and/or steroid, plantar common digital nerve(s) (e.g., Morton's neuroma) (old Guideline 10)
  - Updated title to Injections of tendon sheaths, ligaments, ganglion cysts, carpal and tarsal tunnels and Morton’s Neuroma (CPT codes 20526, 20550, 20551, 20612 & 28899)

Guideline 13 [Injection, anesthetic agent, greater occipital nerve (CPT Code 64405)]
  - Added language to indicate: Coverage guidelines of available LCDs do not align there is no uniformity. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy guidelines do not align with the available LCDs.

Guideline 14 [Decompression; unspecified nerve (CPT Code 64722) and Transection or avulsion of; greater occipital nerve (CPT Code 64744) for treatment of headaches]
  - Added “ Transection or avulsion of; greater occipital nerve (CPT code 64744)” (old Guideline 12)
  - Updated title to Decompression; unspecified nerve (CPT Code 64722) and Transection or avulsion of; greater occipital nerve (CPT Code 64744) for treatment of headaches
  - Updated coverage guideline for states with no LCDs to default to the UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy for Occipital Neuralgia and Headache Treatment

Guideline 16 (Pain Examination under Anesthesia)
  - Removed coverage summary guideline; reference link to the default Novitas LCD for Pain Management (L32702) already exists.

Guideline 17 [Endoscopic Lysis of Adhesions by Use of Epiduroscope (CPT Codes 62263, 62264, 62292 and 64999)]
  - Added language to indicate: Coverage guidelines of available LCDs do not align there is no uniformity. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy guidelines do not align with the available LCDs

Guideline 18 (Pharmacologic Challenges for Sympathetically Maintained Pain using IV Medications)
  - Removed coverage summary guideline; reference link to the default Novitas LCD for Pain Management (L32702) already exists.

Guideline 20 (Paravertebral Facet Joint)
  - Added reference link to the CMS Coverage with Evidence Development for Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) for chronic low back pain (CLBP).

10/21/2014 Removed detailed DME Face-to-Face Requirement information and replaced with the reference link to the DME, Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotic and Medical Supplies Grid.

04/15/2014 Guidelines # 10 (Injection, anesthetic agent and/or steroid, plantar common digital nerve(s) (e.g., Morton’s neuroma) - Changed default from UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy for Occipital Neuralgia and Cervicogenic, Cluster and Migraine Headaches (no longer addresses CPT Code 64455) to Wisconsin Physicians’ LCD for Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton’s Neuroma (L30153)
Guidelines #14 (Pain Examination under Anesthesia) - Changed default from Trailblazer LCD for Pain Management L26743 (retired) to Novitas LCD for Pain Management
Guidelines #16 (Pharmacologic Challenges for Sympathetically Maintained Pain using IV Medications) - Changed default from Trailblazer LCD for Pain Management L26743 (retired) to Novitas LCD for Pain Management (L32702)

10/24/2013  Annual review; no updates

08/20/2013  Added a note pertaining to the DME Face-to-Face Requirement in accordance with Section 6407 of the Affordable Care Act as defined in the 42 CFR 410.38(g)

12/17/2012  Guidelines #18 (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation for Chronic Low Back Pain) added based on the Medicare NCD for Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) for Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP) (160.27). As confirmed by UnitedHealthcare Regulatory Department with CMS, this benefit is part of the Medicare clinical trial program; therefore, CMS will make payments for MA enrollees on a fee-for-service basis for covered clinical trial costs for TENS for CLBP.

10/31/2012  Annual review with the addition of the following guidelines:
- Guidelines #9 - Injection, anesthetic agent, greater occipital nerve
- Guidelines #10 - Injection, anesthetic agent and/or steroid, plantar common digital nerve(s)
- Guidelines #11 - Decompression; unspecified nerve
- Guidelines #12 - Transection or avulsion of; greater occipital nerve

10/13/2011  Annual review; no updates

04/08/2011  LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A) updated

03/14/2011  Updated Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid (added L30298 and L26743 for MAC Part A for CO, NM, OK and TX)

Updated Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid (added L27512 for MAC Part A for DE, MD AND PA)

Updated Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid (changed covered states for L30481, L30483 and L30155)

10/21/2010  Updated links of superseded LCDs. Added additional available LCDs to the LCD grid.

09/07/2010  Format updated; also included guidelines for Presacral Neurectomy and Uterine Nerve Ablation for Pelvic Pain

V. ATTACHMENT(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L34980</td>
<td>Lumbar Epidural Injections</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian HC</td>
<td>AK, ID, OR, WA, AZ, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>L34982</td>
<td>Lumbar Epidural Injections</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian HC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>L35937</td>
<td>Lumbar Epidural Injections</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
<td>National Govt</td>
<td>IL, MN, WI CT, NY, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT</td>
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</table>
### Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections
- **A and B MAC**
- Palmetto GBA
- AL, GA, NC, SC, TN VA, WV

### Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections (ESI)
- **MAC - Part A and B**
- CGS Administrators, LLC
- KY, OH

### Epidural
- **A and B MAC**
- First Coast Service Options, Inc.
- FL, PR, VI

### Lumbar Epidural Injections
- **MAC - Part A**
- Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation
- AK, AL, AR, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY

### Lumbar Epidural Injections
- **MAC - Part B**
- Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation
- IA, IN, KS, MI, MO, NE

### Epidural Injections for Pain Management
- **A and B MAC**
- Novitas Solutions, Inc.
- AR, CO, DC, DE, MD, MS, NM, NJ, OK, PA, TX

---

### Attachment B - LCD Availability Grid

**Cervical and Thoracic Epidural Injections**
(CPT codes 62320, 62321, 64479 and 64480)
CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>L33906</td>
<td>Epidural</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L35457</td>
<td>Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AK, ID, OR, WA, AZ, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L36920</td>
<td>Epidural Injections for Pain Management</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Novitas Solutions, Inc.</td>
<td>AR, CO, DC, DE, MD, MS, NM, NJ, OK, PA, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>L33595</td>
<td>Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) for Certain Interventional Pain Services</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>First Coast Service Options, Inc.</td>
<td>FL, PR, VI</td>
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### Attachment C - LCD Availability Grid

**Paravertebral Facet Joint/Nerve Blocks and Nerve Denervation**
(Diagnostic and Therapeutic)
(CPT codes 64490, 64491, 64492, 64493, 64494 and 64495)
CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L34832</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
<td>CGS Administrators, LLC</td>
<td>KY, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>L33930</td>
<td>Paravertebral Facet Joint Blocks</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>L34892</td>
<td>Facet Joint Interventions for Pain Management</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Novitas Solutions, Inc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>L34993</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV, AK, ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>L34995</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AK, ID, OR, WA, AZ, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</td>
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### Attachment C - LCD Availability Grid

**Paravertebral Facet Joint/Nerve Blocks and Nerve Denervation**

**Diagnostic and Therapeutic**

(CPT codes 64490, 64491, 64492, 64493, 64494 and 64495)

CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

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<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
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<tr>
<td>L35936</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
<td>National Government Services, Inc.</td>
<td>IL, MN, WI, CT, NY, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L35996</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part A</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>AK, AL, AR, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>L35996</td>
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<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>IA, IN, KS, MI, MO, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>L36471</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV</td>
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**End of Attachment C**

### Attachment D - LCD Availability Grid

**Paravertebral Joint/Nerve Denervation**

(CPT codes 64633, 64634, 64635 and 64636)

CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L33814</td>
<td>Destruction of Paravertebral Facet Joint Nerve(s)</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>First Coast Service Options, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L34832</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
<td>CGS Administrators, LLC</td>
<td>KY, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L34993</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L34995</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AK, ID, OR, WA, AZ, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>L35936</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
<td>National Government Services, Inc.</td>
<td>IL, MN, WI, CT, NY, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L35996</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part A</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>AK, AL, AR, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>L35996</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>MAC - Part B</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>IA, IN, KS, MI, MO, NE</td>
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### Attachment D - LCD Availability Grid

**Paravertebral Joint/Nerve Denervation**

(CPT codes 64633, 64634, 64635 and 64636)

CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
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<th>States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L36471</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV</td>
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</table>

End of Attachment D

### Attachment E - LCD Availability Grid

**Trigger Point Injections**

(CPT codes 20552 and 20553)

CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
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<tr>
<td>L33622</td>
<td>Pain Management</td>
<td>MAC - Part A and B</td>
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<td>L33912</td>
<td>Injection of Trigger Points</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>L34211</td>
<td>Trigger Point Injections</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L34588</td>
<td>Trigger Points, Local Injection</td>
<td>MAC - Part A</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>AK, AL, AR, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L34588</td>
<td>Trigger Points, Local Injection</td>
<td>MAC - Part A &amp; B</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation</td>
<td>IA, IN, KS, MI, MO, NE</td>
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<td>L35010</td>
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<tr>
<td>L36859</td>
<td>Trigger Point Injections</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
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End of Attachment E

### Attachment F - LCD Availability Grid

**Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Injections**

(CPT codes 27096 and G0260)

CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L33622</td>
<td>Pain Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>L33957</td>
<td>Sacroiliac Joint Injection</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>First Coast Service Options, Inc.</td>
<td>FL, PR, VI</td>
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</table>

End of Attachment F
### Attachment G - LCD Availability Grid

**Injections of tendon sheaths, ligaments, ganglion cysts, carpal and tarsal tunnels and Morton’s Neuroma**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L33622</td>
<td>Pain Management</td>
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<td>L34076</td>
<td>Injections - Tendon, Ligament, Ganglion Cyst, Tunnel Syndromes and Morton's Neuroma</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
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</tr>
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<td>L34218</td>
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<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
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End of Attachment G

### Attachment H - LCD Availability Grid

**Injection, Anesthetic Agent, Greater Occipital Nerve**

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<td>Peripheral Nerve Blocks</td>
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<td>Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L35457</td>
<td>Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AK, ID, OR, WA, AZ, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>L33933</td>
<td>Peripheral Nerve Blocks</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>First Coast Service Options, Inc.</td>
<td>FL, PR, VI</td>
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End of Attachment H

### Attachment I - LCD Availability Grid

**Endoscopic Lysis of Adhesions by Use of Epiduroscope**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
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<tr>
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<td>L35008</td>
<td>Non-Covered Services</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>L36954</td>
<td>Noncovered Services other than CPT® Category III Noncovered Services</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>AL, GA, ND, SD, TN, VA, WV</td>
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End of Attachment I

### Attachment J - LCD Availability Grid

**Other Epidural Injections/Infusions**

<table>
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<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L36920</td>
<td>Epidural Injections for Pain Management</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Novitas Solutions, Inc.</td>
<td>CO, NM, OK, TX, AR, LA, MS, DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA</td>
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<td>L35456</td>
<td>Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>CA, AS, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
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End of Attachment J
## Attachment J - LCD Availability Grid

**Other Epidural Injections/Infusions**
(CPT codes 62324, 62325, 62326 and 62327)

CMS website accessed May 1, 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
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<th>Contractor Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L35457</td>
<td>Nerve Blockade for Treatment of Chronic Pain and Neuropathy</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AK, ID, OR, WA, AZ, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</td>
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End of Attachment J