Update to AIM Musculoskeletal Program Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines

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Effective for dates of service on and after **May 18, 2019**, the following updates will apply to the AIM Specialty Health Musculoskeletal Program Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines.

Spine Surgery - Enhancements as indicated by section below:

General Requirements
-Reporting of symptom severity: expanded to include IADLs as functional impairment
-Tobacco Cessation: removed nicotine-free documentation requirement

Cervical Decompression with or without Fusion
-Added exclusion of cervical/thoracic laminectomy if criteria not met

Lumbar Discectomy, Foraminotomy, and Laminotomy
-Added criteria to define radicular pain for Lumbar herniated intervertebral disc

Lumbar Fusion and Treatment of Spinal Deformity (including scoliosis and Kyphosis)
-Added indication and criteria for Flat back Deformity
-Added criteria for Isthmic spondylolisthesis
-Added indication and criteria for Scheuermann's Kyphosis

Lumbar Laminectomy
-Added exclusion of lumbar laminectomy if criteria not met

Noninvasive Electrical Bone Growth Stimulation
-Added risk factor criteria for cervical non-invasive bone growth stimulation

Interventional Pain Guidelines - Enhancements as indicated by section below:

General Requirements
-Reporting of symptom severity: expanded to include IADLs as functional impairment

Therapeutic Epidural Steroid Injection
-Updated time period of initial advanced imaging
-Definition and frequency of repeat therapeutic epidural steroid injection
-Updated maximum number of annual injections
-Added criteria for subsequent injection after suboptimal initial response

Paravertebral Facet Injection/Nerve Block/Neurolysis
-Updated injection frequency limitations

Diagnostic Intraarticular Sacroiliac Joint Injections
-Updated pain reduction from initial injection

Spinal Cord Stimulators
-Added criteria for revision/removal of spinal cord stimulator
-Separated criteria of trial stimulation and permanent stimulator implantation
-Added exclusion of dorsal root ganglion stimulation

As a reminder, ordering and servicing providers may submit prior authorization requests to AIM in one of several ways:

- Access AIM's ProviderPortal$_{SM}$ directly at providerportal.com. Online access is available 24/7 to process orders in real-time, and is the fastest and most convenient way to request authorization.
- Access AIM via the Availity Web Portal at availity.com.
- Call the AIM Contact Center toll-free number: 866-789-0397; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

Please note, this program does not apply to the Federal Employee Program (FEP) or National Accounts.

For questions related to guidelines, please contact AIM via email at aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com. Additionally, you may access and download a copy of the current guidelines here.

URL: https://providernews.anthem.com/virginia/article/update-to-aim-musculoskeletal-program-clinical-appropriateness-guidelines-2

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