

Updates to AIM MSK Interventional Pain Management Clinical Appropriateness Guideline

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Effective for dates of service on and after August 16, 2020, the following updates will apply to the AIM Musculoskeletal Program: Interventional Pain Management Clinical Appropriateness Guideline.

Musculoskeletal Program: Interventional Pain Management Guideline:

General requirements – conservative management

- Addition of physical therapy or home therapy requirement and one complementary modality based on preponderance of benefit over harm to conservative care
- Align with approach to conservative management defined in spine and joint surgery guidelines

Epidural injection procedures and diagnostic selective nerve root blocks

- Addition of statement about adherence to ESI procedural best practices established by FDA Safe Use Initiative. Recommendations are intended for provider education and will not be used for adjudication.
- Clarification of intent around requirement for advanced imaging for repeat injections

Paravertebral facet injection/nerve block/neurolysis

- Remove indication for 4 unilateral medial branch blocks per session based on panel consensus
- Procedural clarification restricting use of corticosteroids for diagnostic MBB based on panel consensus
- Limit use of intra-articular steroid injection to mechanical disruption of a facet synovial cyst
- Remove indication for intra-articular steroid injections based on new evidence for lack of efficacy

- Increase duration of initial RFN efficacy needed to avoid a MBB to 6 months based on panel consensus
- Clarification that MBB or RFN is not medically necessary after spinal fusion

Spinal cord and nerve root stimulators

- Clarify inclusion of different stimulation methods for spinal cord stimulation
- Add new indication for dorsal root ganglion stimulation
- Clarify exclusions for spinal cord and 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: 866-714-1107, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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 and upcoming guidelines [here](#).

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