

Prior authorization requirements for paravertebral facet injection/nerve block/neurolysis

West Virginia | Mountain Health Trust

High-quality and timely health services for Wellpoint members requires successful collaboration with you, the professionals who care for them. Because timely notifications and detailed information are an important part of successful collaboration, we encourage you to review the medical necessity criteria available in the following *Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines*.

Wellpoint reviews prior authorization (PA) requests for paravertebral facet injection/nerve block/neurolysis against criteria detailed in the Carelon Medical Benefits Management, Inc. Musculoskeletal Program Interventional Pain Management Guidelines:
http://www.carelon.com/PDF/Guidelines/2018/Jul01/AIM_Guidelines_Interventional-Pain-Management.pdf.

To request PA, you may use one of the following methods:

- Web: <https://www.availity.com>
- Fax: 866-655-7423
- Phone: 855-402-6983

You can help streamline the authorization process to ensure timely medical necessity review by including the following:

- Specific area(s) in which you plan to inject (including CPT® codes)
- Appropriate documentation to demonstrate that all criteria are met (including conservative treatment)

Please note the maximum amount of units that can be authorized per the Carelon Medical Benefits Management, Inc. guidelines: For each covered spinal region (cervical or lumbar), diagnostic medial branch blocks (MBBs) should be performed at no more than four joints per session (for example, two bilateral levels or four unilateral levels).

Use the following CPT codes for paravertebral facet injection/nerve block/neurolysis services:

- 64490: Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophysial) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or computed tomography [CT]), cervical or thoracic; single level

Carelon Medical Benefits Management, Inc. is an independent company providing utilization management services on behalf of the health plan.

- 64491: Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophysial) 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.)
- 64633: Destruction by neurolytic agent, paravertebral facet joint nerve(s), with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); cervical or thoracic, single facet joint
- 64634: Destruction by neurolytic agent, paravertebral facet joint nerve(s), with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); cervical or thoracic, each additional facet joint (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)
- 64635: Destruction by neurolytic agent, paravertebral facet joint nerve(s), with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); lumbar or sacral, single facet joint
- 64636: Destruction by neurolytic agent, paravertebral facet joint nerve(s), with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); lumbar or sacral, each additional facet joint (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, please contact our Customer Care Center at **800-782-0095**.