

Epidural Steroid Injections for Spinal Pain (for Ohio Only)

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[Instructions for Use](#)

Table of Contents	Page
Application	1
Coverage Rationale	1
Applicable Codes	1
Description of Services	3
U.S. Food and Drug Administration	3
References	4
Policy History/Revision Information	4
Instructions for Use	4

- Related Policies**
- [Ablative Treatment for Spinal Pain \(for Ohio Only\)](#)
 - [Anesthesia Policy, Professional](#)
 - [Facet Joint Injections for Spinal Pain \(for Ohio Only\)](#)
 - [Occipital Nerve Injections and Ablation \(Including Occipital Neuralgia and Headache\) \(for Ohio Only\)](#)

Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of Ohio. Any requests for services that are stated as unproven or services for which there is a coverage or quantity limit will be evaluated for medical necessity using Ohio Administrative Code 5160-1-01.

Coverage Rationale

Epidural steroid injections (ESI) are proven and medically necessary in certain circumstances. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the InterQual® CP: Procedures, Epidural Steroid Injection.

Click [here](#) to view the InterQual® criteria.

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

CPT Code	Description
62320	Injection(s), of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (e.g., anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, including needle or catheter placement, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, cervical or thoracic; without imaging guidance
62321	Injection(s), of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (e.g., anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, including needle or catheter placement, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, cervical or thoracic; with imaging guidance (i.e., fluoroscopy or CT)
62322	Injection(s), of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (e.g., anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, including needle or catheter placement, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, lumbar or sacral (caudal); without imaging guidance

CPT Code	Description
62323	Injection(s), of diagnostic or therapeutic substance(s) (e.g., anesthetic, antispasmodic, opioid, steroid, other solution), not including neurolytic substances, including needle or catheter placement, interlaminar epidural or subarachnoid, lumbar or sacral (caudal); with imaging guidance (i.e., fluoroscopy or CT)
64479	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); cervical or thoracic, single level
64480	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); cervical or thoracic, each additional level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
64483	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); lumbar or sacral, single level
64484	Injection(s), anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT); lumbar or sacral, each additional level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

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Diagnosis Code	Description
All Regions	
M47.25	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M51.15	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M96.1	Postlaminectomy syndrome, not elsewhere classified
Cervical/Thoracic	
G54.2	Cervical root disorders, not elsewhere classified
G54.3	Thoracic root disorders, not elsewhere classified
M47.21	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.22	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, cervical region
M47.23	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M47.24	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, thoracic region
M50.10	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, unspecified cervical region
M50.11	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, high cervical region
M50.121	Cervical disc disorder at C4-C5 level with radiculopathy
M50.122	Cervical disc disorder at C5-C6 level with radiculopathy
M50.123	Cervical disc disorder at C6-C7 level with radiculopathy
M50.13	Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M51.14	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, thoracic region
M54.11	Radiculopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M54.12	Radiculopathy, cervical region
M54.13	Radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region
M54.14	Radiculopathy, thoracic region
M54.15	Radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
S24.2XXA	Injury of nerve root of thoracic spine, initial encounter
Lumbar/Sacral	
G54.4	Lumbosacral root disorders, not elsewhere classified
M47.26	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, lumbar region
M47.27	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, lumbosacral region

Diagnosis Code	Description
Lumbar/Sacral	
M47.28	Other spondylosis with radiculopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M48.062	Spinal stenosis, lumbar region with neurogenic claudication
M51.A0	Intervertebral annulus fibrosus defect, lumbar region, unspecified size
M51.A1	Intervertebral annulus fibrosus defect, small, lumbar region
M51.A2	Intervertebral annulus fibrosus defect, large, lumbar region
M51.A3	Intervertebral annulus fibrosus defect, lumbosacral region, unspecified size
M51.A4	Intervertebral annulus fibrosus defect, small, lumbosacral region
M51.A5	Intervertebral annulus fibrosus defect, large, lumbosacral region
M51.16	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, lumbar region
M51.17	Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M54.16	Radiculopathy, lumbar region
M54.17	Radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M54.18	Radiculopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M54.30	Sciatica, unspecified side
M54.31	Sciatica, right side
M54.32	Sciatica, left side
M54.40	Lumbago with sciatica, unspecified side
M54.41	Lumbago with sciatica, right side
M54.42	Lumbago with sciatica, left side
S34.21XA	Injury of nerve root of lumbar spine, initial encounter
S34.22XA	Injury of nerve root of sacral spine, initial encounter

Description of Services

Spine pain, in particular pain in the lower back, is a common concern, affecting up to 90% of Americans at some point in their lifetime. The majority of episodes are mild and self-limiting, and up to 50% of affected persons will have more than one episode. It is a symptom of a variety of different conditions, including injury, spinal stenosis, disc herniation or degenerative changes in the vertebrae. Epidural Steroid Injections (ESIs) may be used as a non-surgical modality to treat low back and neck pain and involve the injection of a solution containing corticosteroids and/or anesthetic into the epidural space. The ESI can be performed via interlaminar (ILES), transforaminal (TFESI), or caudal approaches (caudal ESI).

Epidural Steroid Injections generally require local anesthetic only. However, for some patients, moderate/conscious sedation, non-intravenous sedation, and monitored anesthesia care (MAC) may be necessary. These sedation procedures are generally safe when administered by trained, certified providers with appropriate monitoring, but are not without risk. Examples of procedures that typically do not require moderate sedation or an anesthesia care team include but are not limited to Epidural Steroid Injections; epidural blood patch; trigger point injections; shoulder, hip, sacroiliac, facet, and knee joint injections; medial branch nerve blocks; and peripheral nerve blocks (American Society of Anesthesiologists, 2021).

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Epidural Steroid Injection is a procedure and, therefore, not subject to FDA regulation. However, any medical devices, drugs, biologics, or tests used as a part of this procedure may be subject to FDA regulation. Injectable corticosteroids include methylprednisolone, hydrocortisone, triamcinolone, betamethasone, and dexamethasone, and are approved by the FDA, however, the effectiveness and safety of the drugs for Epidural Steroid Injection have not been established, and FDA has not

approved corticosteroids for such use. Additional information may be obtained from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration - Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/fda-organization/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder>. (Accessed February 7, 2023)

In April 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned, that injection of corticosteroids into the epidural space of the spine may result in rare but serious adverse events, including loss of vision, stroke, paralysis, and death. They noted the effectiveness and safety of epidural administration of corticosteroids have not been established, and the FDA has not approved corticosteroids for this use. FDA is requiring the addition of a warning to the drug labels of injectable corticosteroids to describe these risks. The FDA recommends that individuals should discuss the benefits and risks of epidural corticosteroid injections with their health care professionals, along with the benefits and risks associated with other possible treatments. Further information can be found at: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-drug-safety-communication-fda-requires-label-changes-warn-rare-serious-neurologic-problems-after>. (Accessed February 7, 2023)

References

Anesthesiologists (ASA). Committee on Pain Medicine. Statement on Anesthetic Care During Interventional Pain Procedures for Adults. October 2005; Amended October 2021. Located at: <https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-practice-parameters/statement-on-anesthetic-care-during-interventional-pain-procedures-for-adults>. Accessed February 7, 2023.

Ohio Administrative Code/5160/Chapter 5160-1-01. Medicaid medical necessity: definitions and principles. Available at: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-1-01>. Accessed May 5, 2023.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
11/01/2023	<p>Related Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Added reference link to the Reimbursement Policy titled <i>Anesthesia Policy, Professional Application</i> <p>Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Added language to indicate any requests for services that are stated as unproven or services for which there is a coverage or quantity limit will be evaluated for medical necessity using Ohio Administrative Code 5160-1-01 <p>Coverage Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Revised language to indicate epidural steroid injections (ESI) are proven and medically necessary in certain circumstances; for medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to InterQual® CP: Procedures, Epidural Steroid Injection <p>Applicable Codes</p> <p>Lumbar/Sacral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Added ICD-10 diagnosis codes M51.A0, M51.A1, M51.A2, M51.A3, M51.A4, and M51.A5 <p>Supporting Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated <i>Description of Services</i>, <i>FDA</i>, and <i>References</i> sections to reflect the most current informationRemoved <i>Definitions</i> and <i>Clinical Evidence</i> sectionsArchived previous policy version CS039OH.S – P

Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state (Ohio Administrative Code [OAC]) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state (OAC) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state (OAC) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, please check the federal, state (OAC) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare uses InterQual® for the primary medical/surgical criteria, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) for substance use, in administering health benefits. If InterQual® does not have applicable criteria, UnitedHealthcare may also use UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and/or Utilization Review Guidelines that have been approved by the Ohio Department for Medicaid Services. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and Utilization Review Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.