



Network Notification

Date: August 19, 2016
To: Ohio Medicaid Health Partners
From: CareSource®
Subject: Updated Interventional Pain Mgt Policies

CareSource has updated the interventional pain management policies. These updates will be effective 9/19/2016. The updated policies are posted on our provider website located at our [policy pages](#). Updates were in part initiated in response to comments and peer-to-peer discussions from pain management providers seeking further clarity and a reduction in conservative therapy requirement. Conservative therapy requirements now also parallel medical imaging authorization requirements. You can access these policies directly through the links below:

- [Epidural Injections](#)
- [Facet Injections](#)
- [Facet Neurotomy](#)
- [Sacroiliac Procedures](#)
- [Spinal Cord Stimulator](#)
- [Implantable Pain Pump](#)
- [Pain Management Payment Policy](#)

For epidural injections, facet medial branch nerve block injections, and sacroiliac injections, the time frames for conservative therapies have been decreased from three (3) months, to six (6) weeks. There are also provisions for exceptions to conservative therapies, with appropriate documentation in the medical record. Imaging is no longer required in the policy for epidural injections, and a decision to image before epidural injection is deferred to the provider based upon patient presentation.

For epidurals, the total quantity for twelve (12) months has been increased to six (6) per year, all types. For facet medial branch nerve injections and neurotomies, the yearly maximum has been changed to a total of five (5) sessions (five (5) dates of service) of any type of facet procedure, similar to the CMS' Medicare local coverage determination policy for epidural injections. CareSource will not cover sacroiliac ablations or sacroiliac joint fusions due to limited and/or inconclusive data in published literature.

CareSource will begin prior authorization for [implantable spinal cord stimulators](#) and [implantable pain pumps](#) beginning 9/19/16. These two new policies are also located [at our policy pages](#).

A new pain management payment policy includes updates in trigger point injection quantities. The payment policy also further clarifies the CareSource Pain Policy coding relationships.