

3/17/2020

Dear American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP),

Greetings! On behalf of the pain management workgroup, which has representation from all the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), we are reaching out to update you on our activities. We are currently working on a collaborative local coverage determination (LCD) policy for facet joint injections and medial nerve branch procedures. As a pain management society with leaders in the field on this topic, we want to make sure you are aware and seek your input.

We are planning to host an evidence review advisory meeting, which will be a combined meeting with all Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs). This meeting will be hosted in Nashville, TN, as well as by teleconference on May 28th from 1-3 pm CST. As you are aware, we cannot accommodate all experts in the field on the panel, and we will endeavor to find panelists who represent a broad spectrum in terms of geography, practice setting, medical specialty, etc. We encourage your society and interested members to attend the meeting via teleconference as observers. A link to the meeting and registration information will be posted to each MAC's website and the CMS Landing Page within the next 2-3 weeks.

The panelist will be asked to rate the evidence surrounding facet joint injections and medial nerve branch procedures. We are seeking your input in preparation for the meeting. What would you recommend as representative of the top 5-10 articles in the medical literature that your experts feel are the most important papers in the facet joint and medical nerve procedures? What questions do you recommend we consider in evaluating this body of evidence? We will post the final list of articles and questions to each MACs website by 5/14/2020.

The workgroup will be evaluating the evidence and consider the input of the evidence review advisory meeting in the development of a draft LCD. Once that draft is complete, each MAC will post the draft. At this time, you will have an opportunity to review the draft, and you and your members will be welcomed to submit comments and attend your jurisdictions open meeting where further presentations may be made. The input during this time will also be considered before a final policy is determined.

While the meeting has been scheduled to be in-person this, we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. We understand that many medical institutions have restricted the travel of their employees in the near term. We will have a contingency plan to conduct this meeting via teleconference if necessary. We will announce if the meeting will be held in person or via teleconference by 5/1/2020.

Thank in advance for your support and wishing you safety during this challenging time.

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Neil Sandler, MD, CGS Administrators, J15

Leslie Stevens, M.D., First Coast Service Options, JN

Judith Volkar, M.D., Palmetto GBA, JJ and JM

Jason Stroud, M.D. Palmetto GBA, JJ and JM

Marc Duerden, M.D., National Government Services, J6 and JK

Arthur Lurvey, M.D., Noridian Healthcare Solutions, JE and JF

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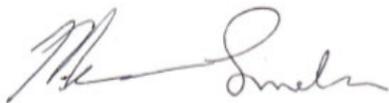
Eileen Moynihan, M.D., Noridian Healthcare Solutions, JE and JF

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Please send article recommendations and questions to: jessica.van@cgsadmin.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Loveless". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meredith Loveless, MD, FACOG
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