SUBJECT: FACET NEUROTOMY BY RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION FOR SPINAL PAIN

INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid</th>
<th>Individual and Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ BadgerCare Plus</td>
<td>✓ Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Care4Kids Program</td>
<td>✓ Marketplace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:
The purpose of this policy is to define criteria for the medically necessary use of facet neurotomy by radiofrequency ablation (RFA) for spinal pain.

POLICY:
Facet neurotomy (RFA) may be indicated when ALL of the following are present:

1) Chronic spinal pain (at least 3 months’ duration) originating from 1 or more of the following:
   a) Cervical spine (e.g., following whiplash injury)
   b) Lumbar spine

2) Failure of 3 months or more of nonoperative management, as indicated by ONE of the following:
a) Exercise program  
b) Pharmacotherapy  
c) Physical therapy or spinal manipulation therapy  

3) Fluoroscopically guided controlled local anesthetic blocks of medial branches of dorsal spinal nerves (MBB) have been completed within 6 months of the authorization request and either:
   a) One MBB achieved at least 80% pain relief from baseline, or
   b) Two consecutive MBBs each achieved at least 50% pain relief from baseline

4) Imaging studies and physical examination have ruled out other causes of spinal pain (eg, herniated disk, spinal stenosis, fracture, tumor).

5) When there has been one or more prior RFAs in the same region and side (cervical or lumbar):
   a) The potential benefit of each repeat RFA must still be verified by MBBs which meet the same criteria as outlined above in section “3”.
   b) The most recent prior RFA in the same region and side must be at least six months prior to the first MBB testing for the repeat RFA.

6) No coagulopathy (no current use of anticoagulants or antiplatelet therapy is not a criteria)

7) No current infection

REFERENCES:
1. Facet Neurotomy ACG: A-0218 (AC); MCG Health; CareWebQI Version: 11.5, Content Version: 23.0, 2019 MCG Health, LLC