

Reimbursement Policy



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Reimbursement Policy NumberR06

Postoperative Continuous Local Delivery of Analgesia

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Related Policies

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Reimbursement policies are intended to supplement certain **standard** benefit plans. Please note, the terms of an individual's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement (GSA), Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which a reimbursement policy is based. For example, an individual's benefit plan document may contain specific language which contradicts the guidance outlined in a reimbursement policy. In the event of a conflict, an individual's benefit plan document **always supersedes** the information in a reimbursement policy. Reimbursement terms in agreements with participating health care providers may also supersede the information in a reimbursement policy. Proprietary information of Cigna. Copyright ©2018 Cigna

Overview

This policy pertains to separate reimbursement for postoperative pain management via an ambulatory infusion pump.

This policy applies to claims submitted on a CMS1500 or a UB04 claim form.

Reimbursement Policy

Cigna does not provide separate reimbursement for pain pump catheter insertion for the Continuous local infusion of analgesia.

Cigna considers pain pump catheter insertion for the continuous local infusion of analgesia included in the allowance for the primary surgical procedure(s).

General Background

Postoperative pain management is recognized as an important aspect of the entire surgical experience. The use of ambulatory infusion pumps that directly instill local anesthetics and/or opioids into operative sites is recognized as an effective means to achieve pain relief and avoid the unfavorable side effects that may accompany systemic analgesic administration.

Ambulatory pain pumps have been used in an increasing variety of surgical procedures including, but not limited to:

- Orthopedic surgery (e.g., spine, hip, shoulder, knee, ankle or foot)
- Breast reconstruction

- Inguinal hernia repair
- Abdominal hysterectomy
- Cesarean delivery

With an ambulatory pain/infusion pump, local anesthetics, opioids or both may be administered directly into the surgical site. The perineural technique involves the insertion of a catheter directly adjacent to the peripheral nerves supplying an affected surgical site. Local anesthetic and/or analgesic agents are then infused through the catheter providing site-specific pain relief.

Generally, the surgeon performing the primary procedure(s) inserts the catheter portion of the pain pump during surgery. The catheter insertion is considered an integral component of the primary surgical procedure(s), similar to the insertion or placement of a surgical drain or irrigation tube.

Some trade names for ambulatory infusion pumps include:

- ON-Q®
- PainBuster™
- C-bloc®
- Homepump Eclipse®
- Stryker®
- Accufuser™
- I-Pump™
- ambIT™
- AutoMed™

Coding/Billing Information

At this time, no specific CPT® or HCPCS code exists to represent pain pump catheter insertion for the continuous infusion of local anesthetic and/or analgesic agent delivery. Whether a CPT or HCPCS code is created or an unlisted code is submitted, infusion pump catheter insertion is included in the primary procedure(s) allowance and will not be separately reimbursed.

This Reimbursement Policy is in alignment with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, which defines a global surgical package to include "Postsurgical Pain Management - By the Surgeon."

References

1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Components of a Global Surgical Package (Rev. 1, 10-01-03) B3-15011, B3-4820-4831; Chapter 12 – Physicians/Nonphysician Practitioners; (Rev.1434, 02-05-08); accessed 3/13/08

Policy History/Update

Date	Change/Update
12/18/2018	Policy template updated.
10/24/2017	Policy template updated
09/28/2016	Policy template updated
12/02/2013	Updated template to include new logo
05/30/2011	Policy template updated
04/15/2009	Policy effective for Cigna Great-West business
04/24/2008	Policy effective for Cigna

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