

Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy (L34993)

Links in PDF documents are not guaranteed to work. To follow a web link, please use the MCD Website.

Contractor Information

Contractor Name	Contract Type	Contract Number	Jurisdiction	State(s)
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01111 - MAC A	J - E	California - Entire State
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01112 - MAC B	J - E	California - Northern
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01182 - MAC B	J - E	California - Southern American Samoa
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01211 - MAC A	J - E	Guam Hawaii Northern Mariana Islands American Samoa
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01212 - MAC B	J - E	Guam Hawaii Northern Mariana Islands
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01311 - MAC A	J - E	Nevada
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01312 - MAC B	J - E	Nevada American Samoa California - Entire State
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01911 - MAC A	J - E	Guam Hawaii Nevada Northern Mariana Islands

[Back to Top](#)

LCD Information

Document Information

LCD ID L34993	Original Effective Date For services performed on or after 10/01/2015
Original ICD-9 LCD ID L34131	Revision Effective Date For services performed on or after 11/02/2016
LCD Title Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy	Revision Ending Date N/A
Proposed LCD in Comment Period N/A	Retirement Date N/A
Source Proposed LCD N/A	Notice Period Start Date N/A
AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement	Notice Period End Date N/A

CPT only copyright 2002-2018 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Applicable FARS/DFARS Apply to Government Use. Fee schedules, relative value units, conversion factors and/or related components are not assigned by the AMA, are not part of CPT, and the AMA is not recommending their use. The AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. The AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.

The Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (Code) is published in Current Dental Terminology (CDT). Copyright © American Dental Association. All rights reserved. CDT and CDT-2016 are trademarks of the American Dental Association.

UB-04 Manual. OFFICIAL UB-04 DATA SPECIFICATIONS MANUAL, 2014, is copyrighted by American Hospital Association ("AHA"), Chicago, Illinois. No portion of OFFICIAL UB-04 MANUAL may be reproduced, sorted in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior express, written consent of AHA." Health Forum reserves the right to change the copyright notice from time to time upon written notice to Company.

CMS National Coverage Policy N/A

Coverage Guidance

Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

Introduction:

This policy does not address sacral conditions or injections or neurotomies. Sacral injections, identified on the claim by the ICD-10 code M43.27, M43.28, M53.2X7, M53.2X8, M53.3, M53.86, M53.87, M53.88, are not subject to the requirements of this LCD.

Facet joints are paired diarthrodial articulations of the superior and inferior articular processes of adjacent vertebrae. The medial branches (MB) of the dorsal rami of the segmental nerves innervate facet joints and the MB nerves from the two adjacent dorsal rami innervate each joint. [Exceptions to this rule are the C2-3 facet joint, which is innervated by the third occipital nerve; and the L5-S1 facet joint, which is innervated by the L4 MB and the L5 dorsal ramus.]

Facet joint injection techniques are used in the diagnosis and/or treatment of chronic neck and back pain. However, the evidence of clinical efficacy and utility has not been well-established in the medical literature, which is replete with non-comparable and inadequately designed studies. Further, there is a singular dearth of long-term outcomes reports. This is particularly problematic given the steroid dosages administered. These drugs alone may develop the relief experienced by patients but are associated with serious adverse health events and could as well be administered orally. **Hence, ongoing coverage requires outcomes reporting as described in this LCD to allow future analysis of clinical efficacy.**

Definitions

- A zygapophyseal (aka facet) joint "level" refers to the zygapophyseal joint or the two medial branch (MB) nerves that innervate that zygapophyseal joint.
- A "session" is defined as all injections/blocks/RF procedures **performed on one day** and includes medial branch blocks (MBB), intraarticular injections (IA), facet cyst ruptures, and RF ablations.

- A "region" is all injections performed in cervical/thoracic or all injections performed in lumbar (not sacral) spinal areas.
- "Diagnosis" of facet-mediated pain requires the establishment of pain relief following dual medial branch blocks (MBBs) performed at different sessions. Neither physical exam nor imaging has adequate diagnostic power to confidently distinguish the facet joint as the pain source.

Indications

- Patient must have history of at least 3 months of moderate to severe pain with functional impairment and pain is inadequately responsive to conservative care such as NSAIDs, acetaminophen, physical therapy (as tolerated).
- Pain is predominantly axial and, with the possible exception of facet joint cysts, not associated with radiculopathy or neurogenic claudication.
- There is no non-facet pathology that could explain the source of the patient's pain, such as fracture, tumor, infection, or significant deformity.
- Clinical assessment implicates the facet joint as the putative source of pain.

General Procedure Requirements:

- Pre-procedural documentation must include a complete initial evaluation including history and an appropriately focused musculoskeletal and neurological physical examination. There should be a summary of pertinent diagnostic tests or procedures justifying the possible presence of facet joint pain.
- A procedure note must be legible and include sufficient detail to allow reconstruction of the procedure. Required elements of the note include a description of the techniques employed, nerves injected and sites(s) of injections, drugs and doses with volumes and concentrations as well as pre and post-procedural pain assessments. With RF neurotomy, electrode position, cannula size, lesion parameters, and electrical stimulation parameters and findings must be specified and documented.
- Facet joint interventions (diagnostic and/or therapeutic) must be performed under fluoroscopic or computed tomographic (CT) guidance. Facet joint interventions performed under ultrasound guidance will not be reimbursed. It is inappropriate to bill for fluoroscopy (CPT® codes 77002 or 77003) with a 59 modifier when the procedure(s) billed on that date of service for the same patient by the same provider are included in the CPT® description of the procedure(s) performed.
- A hard (plain radiograph with conventional film or specialized paper) or digital copy image or images which adequately document the needle position and contrast medium flow (excluding RF ablations and those cases in which using contrast is contra-indicated, such as patients with documented contrast allergies), must be retained and submitted if requested.

- In order to maintain target specificity, total IA injection volume must not exceed 1.0 mL per cervical joint or 2 mL per lumbar joint, including contrast. Larger volumes may be used only when performing a purposeful facet cyst rupture in the lumbar spine.
- Total MBB anesthetic volume shall be limited to a maximum of 0.5 mL per MB nerve for diagnostic purposes and 2ml for therapeutic. For a third occipital nerve block, up to 1.0 mL is allowed for diagnostic and 2ml for therapeutic purposes.
- In total, no more than 100 mg of triamcinolone or methylprednisolone or 15 mg of betamethasone or dexamethasone or equivalents shall be injected during any single *session*.
- Both diagnostic and therapeutic IA facet joint injections and medial branch blocks (see criteria below) may be acceptably performed without steroids.

Provider Qualifications

Provider Qualifications' requirements must be met. Patient safety and quality of care mandate that healthcare professionals who perform Facet Joint Injections, Medial Branch Blocks, and Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurotomy are appropriately experienced and/or trained to provide and manage the services. The CMS Manual System, Pub. 100-8, Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 13, Section 5.1

(<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/pim83c13.pdf>) underscores this point and states that "reasonable and necessary" services must be "ordered and/or furnished by qualified personnel." Services will be considered medically reasonable and necessary only if performed by appropriately experienced and/or formally trained providers.

The following training requirement applies only to those providers who have **not** provided these specific interventional pain management services on a regular basis (at least two times per month) during the ten years prior to the effective date of this LCD as may be established by claims billings. A basic requirement of payment is training and/or credentialing by a formal residency/fellowship program and/or other training program that is accredited by a nationally-recognized body and whose core curriculum includes the performance and management of the procedures addressed in this policy. Recognized accrediting bodies include only those whose program accreditation gains the trainee eligibility to sit for a healthcare-related licensing exam or licensing itself, which in turn allows the licensee to perform these procedures. At a minimum, training must cover and develop an understanding of anatomy and drug pharmacodynamics and kinetics, the technical performance of the procedure(s) and utilization of the required associated imaging modalities, and the diagnosis and management of potential complications from the intervention.

The following *credentialing* requirement applies to all providers of the services addressed in this policy. If the practitioner works in a hospital facility at any time and/or is credentialed by a hospital for any procedure, the practitioner must be credentialed to perform the same procedure in the outpatient setting.

Diagnostic Facet Joint Injections

- Dual MBBs (a series of two MBBs) are necessary to diagnose facet pain due to the unacceptably high false positive rate of single MBB injections.
 - A second confirmatory MBB is allowed if documentation indicates the first MBB produced $\geq 80\%$ relief of primary (index) pain and duration of relief is consistent with the agent employed.

- Intraarticular facet block will not be reimbursed as a diagnostic test unless medial branch blocks cannot be performed due to specific documented anatomic restrictions.

Therapeutic Injections

- Either intraarticular or medial branch blocks may provide temporary or long-lasting or permanent relief of facet-mediated pain. Injections may be repeated if the first injection results in significant pain relief (> 50%) for at least 3 months. (See Limitations section for total number of injections that may be performed in one year.)
- Recurrent pain at the site of previously treated facet joint may be treated without additional diagnostic blocks if > 50% pain relief from the previous block(s) lasted at least 3 months.

Thermal Medial Branch Radiofrequency Neurotomy (includes RF and microwave technologies):

- Only when dual MBBs provide $\geq 80\%$ relief of the primary or index pain and duration of relief is consistent with the agent employed may facet joint denervation with RF medial branch neurotomy be considered.
- Repeat denervation procedures involving the same joint will only be considered medically necessary if the patient experienced $\geq 50\%$ improvement of pain and improvement in patient specific ADLs documented for at least 6 months.

Limitations of Coverage:

- A maximum of five (5) facet joint injection sessions inclusive of medial branch blocks, intraarticular injections, facet cyst rupture and RF ablations may be performed per rolling 12 month year in the cervical/thoracic spine and five (5) in the lumbar spine.
- For each covered spinal region (cervical/thoracic or lumbar), no more than two (2) thermal RF sessions will be reimbursed in any rolling 12 month year, involving no more than four (4) joints per session, e.g., two (2) bilateral levels or four (4) unilateral levels.
- Neither conscious sedation nor Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) is routinely necessary for intraarticular facet joint injections or medial branch blocks and are not routinely reimbursable. Individual consideration may be given for payment in rare unique circumstances if the medical necessity of sedation is unequivocal and clearly documented.
- Non-thermal RF modalities for facet joint denervation including chemical, low grade thermal energy (<80 degrees Celsius), as well as pulsed RF are not covered
- Intraarticular and/or extraarticular facet joint prolotherapy is not covered.

Summary of Evidence

NA

Analysis of Evidence (Rationale for Determination)

NA

[Back to Top](#)

Coding Information

Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

- 012x Hospital Inpatient (Medicare Part B only)
- 013x Hospital Outpatient
- 018x Hospital - Swing Beds
- 021x Skilled Nursing - Inpatient (Including Medicare Part A)
- 022x Skilled Nursing - Inpatient (Medicare Part B only)
- 023x Skilled Nursing - Outpatient
- 073x Clinic - Freestanding
- 083x Ambulatory Surgery Center
- 085x Critical Access Hospital

Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

CPT/HCPCS Codes

Group 1 Paragraph: N/A

Group 1 Codes:

- 64490 INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH IMAGE GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT), CERVICAL OR THORACIC; SINGLE LEVEL
- 64491 INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH IMAGE GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT), CERVICAL OR THORACIC; SECOND LEVEL (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 64492 INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH IMAGE GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT), CERVICAL OR THORACIC; THIRD AND ANY ADDITIONAL LEVEL(S) (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 64493

- INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH IMAGE GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT), LUMBAR OR SACRAL; SINGLE LEVEL
- 64494 INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH IMAGE GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT), LUMBAR OR SACRAL; SECOND LEVEL (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 64495 INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH IMAGE GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT), LUMBAR OR SACRAL; THIRD AND ANY ADDITIONAL LEVEL(S) (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 64633 DESTRUCTION BY NEUROLYTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET JOINT NERVE(S), WITH IMAGING GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT); CERVICAL OR THORACIC, SINGLE FACET JOINT
- 64634 DESTRUCTION BY NEUROLYTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET JOINT NERVE(S), WITH IMAGING GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT); CERVICAL OR THORACIC, EACH ADDITIONAL FACET JOINT (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 64635 DESTRUCTION BY NEUROLYTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET JOINT NERVE(S), WITH IMAGING GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT); LUMBAR OR SACRAL, SINGLE FACET JOINT
- 64636 DESTRUCTION BY NEUROLYTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET JOINT NERVE(S), WITH IMAGING GUIDANCE (FLUOROSCOPY OR CT); LUMBAR OR SACRAL, EACH ADDITIONAL FACET JOINT (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)

Group 2 Paragraph: Note the following Category III codes are considered non-covered. Please refer to the statement, "Facet joint interventions performed under ultrasound guidance will not be reimbursed" under General Procedure Requirements in the Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity section above.

Group 2 Codes:

- 0213T INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, CERVICAL OR THORACIC; SINGLE LEVEL
- 0214T INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, CERVICAL OR THORACIC; SECOND LEVEL (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 0215T INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, CERVICAL OR THORACIC; THIRD AND ANY ADDITIONAL LEVEL(S) (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 0216T INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, LUMBAR OR SACRAL; SINGLE LEVEL
- 0217T INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, LUMBAR OR SACRAL; SECOND LEVEL (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)
- 0218T INJECTION(S), DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT, PARAVERTEBRAL FACET (ZYGAPOPHYSEAL) JOINT (OR NERVES INNERVATING THAT JOINT) WITH ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, LUMBAR OR SACRAL; THIRD AND ANY ADDITIONAL LEVEL(S) (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)

ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

Group 1 Paragraph: N/A

Group 1 Codes:

ICD-10 Codes

Description

M46.81	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M46.82	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, cervical region
M46.83	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, cervicothoracic region
M46.84	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, thoracic region
M46.85	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, thoracolumbar region
M46.86	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, lumbar region
M46.87	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, lumbosacral region
M46.88	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M46.89	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies, multiple sites in spine
M47.811	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.812	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, cervical region
M47.813	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, cervicothoracic region

ICD-10 Codes	Description
M47.814	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, thoracic region
M47.815	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, thoracolumbar region
M47.816	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, lumbar region
M47.817	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, lumbosacral region
M47.818	Spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M47.891	Other spondylosis, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M47.892	Other spondylosis, cervical region
M47.893	Other spondylosis, cervicothoracic region
M47.894	Other spondylosis, thoracic region
M47.895	Other spondylosis, thoracolumbar region
M47.896	Other spondylosis, lumbar region
M47.897	Other spondylosis, lumbosacral region
M47.898	Other spondylosis, sacral and sacrococcygeal region
M53.81*	Other specified dorsopathies, occipito-atlanto-axial region
M62.830*	Muscle spasm of back
M71.30	Other bursal cyst, unspecified site
M71.38	Other bursal cyst, other site

Group 1 Medical Necessity ICD-10 Codes Asterisk Explanation: M53.81* Use for Occipital headache with CPT codes 64490 and 64633 only

M62.830* Use for FACET SYNDROME ONLY

ICD-10 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity N/A

ICD-10 Additional Information [Back to Top](#)

General Information

Associated Information

N/A

Sources of Information

Lumbar Reference

1. Bogduk N, Dreyfuss P, Govind J. A Narrative Review of Lumbar Medial Branch Neurotomy for the Treatment of Back Pain. *Pain Med.* 2009;10:1035-1045
2. Lord SM, Barnsley L, Bogduk N. The utility of comparative local anesthetic blocks versus placebo-controlled blocks for the diagnosis of cervical zygapophysial joint pain. *Clin J Pain.* 1995 Sep;11(3): 208-213.
3. MacVicar J, Borowczyk J, MacVicar A, et al. Lumbar medial branch radiofrequency neurotomy in New Zealand. *Pain Medicine* 2013; 14: 639-645
4. Nath S, Nath CA, Pettersson K. Percutaneous lumbar zygapophysial (facet) joint neurotomy using radiofrequency current, in the management of chronic low back pain. A randomized double-blind trial. *Spine* 2008;33:1291-1297.
5. Schofferman J, Kine G. Effectiveness of repeated radiofrequency neurotomy for lumbar facet pain. *Spine* 2004;29: 2471-2473.
6. Tekin I, Mirzai H, Ok G, Erbuyun K, Vatansever D. A comparison of conventional and pulsed radiofrequency denervation in the treatment of chronic facet joint pain. *Clin J Pain* 2007;23: 524-529.
7. Van Kleef M, Barendse GA, Kessels A, et al. Randomized trial of radiofrequency lumbar facet denervation for chronic low back pain. *Spine* 1999; 24: 1937-1942.

Cervical References:

1. Govind J, King W, Bailey B, et al. Radiofrequency neurotomy for the treatment of third occipital headache. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiat* 2003;74:88-93.
2. Husted DS, Orton D, Schofferman J, et al. Effectiveness of repeated radiofrequency neurotomy for cervical facet joint pain. *J Spinal Disord Tech* 2008;21:406-8.

3. MacVicar J, Borowczyk J, MacVicar A, et al. Cervical medial branch radiofrequency neurotomy in New Zealand. *Pain Medicine* 2012; 13: 647–654

Bibliography

NA

[Back to Top](#)

Revision History Information

Revision History Date	Revision History Number	Revision History Explanation	Reason(s) for Change
11/02/2016	R8	01/11/2018: At this time 21st Century Cures Act will apply to new and revised LCDs that restrict coverage which requires comment and notice. This revision is not a restriction to the coverage determination; and, therefore not all the fields included on the LCD are applicable as noted in this policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction
11/02/2016	R7	Under General General Requirements, clarified it is inappropriate to bill for fluoroscopy (CPT® codes 77002 or 77003) with a 59 modifier when the procedure(s) billed on that date of service for the same patient by the same provider are included in the CPT® description of the procedure(s) performed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction
10/01/2015	R6	This final LCD, effective 11/02/82016, combines JEA L34992 into the JEB LCD L34993 so that both JEA and JEB contract numbers will have the same final MCD LCD number L34993. Coverage will remain the same as the coverage effective 10/01/2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction
10/01/2015	R5	R6 LCD revised to add ICD-10-CM codes M47.891, M47.892, M47.894, M47.895, M47.896, M47.897, M47.898, M46.81, M46.82, M46.83, M46.84, M46.85, M46.86, M46.87, M46.88 and M46.89.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction
10/01/2015	R5	R5 LCD revised to add ICD-10 code M71.38, the statement in the Group 2 Paragraph: "Note the following Category III codes are considered non-covered. Please refer to the statement, "Facet joint interventions performed under ultrasound guidance will not be reimbursed" under General Procedure Requirements in the Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity section above" and added the Category III CPT Codes 0213T-0218T to the Group 2 Codes. Note that Noridian is aware 0213T-0218T were listed in the coverage CPT Category III Non Covered and Covered Codes article but would also like to point out that they are noted as approved when, "all CMS and Noridian requirements are met, including medical records' documentation of medical necessity". This LCD specifically stated "Facet joint interventions performed under ultrasound guidance will not be reimbursed". The CPT Category III Non Covered and Covered Codes coverage article will be updated accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Uniform LCDs Within a MAC Jurisdiction Revisions Due To ICD-10-CM Code Changes
10/01/2015	R4	The LCD revised to add M53.81* for "Use for Occipital headache with CPT codes 64490 and 64633 only".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisions Due To ICD-10-CM Code Changes
10/01/2015	R3	Clarification of the term "year" using "rolling 12 month" under Limitations of Coverage; Removal of the term injection in the phrase "injection <i>session</i> " under General Procedure Requirements to decrease ambiguity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider Education/Guidance
10/01/2015	R2	The "Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity" section is revised under the following headings: General Procedure Requirements, Diagnostic Facet Joint Injections and Therapeutic Injections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider Education/Guidance
10/01/2015	R1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconsideration Request

Revision History Date	Revision History Number	Revision History Explanation	Reason(s) for Change
		The LCD is revised to add ICD10 M71.30. Also, the "Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity" section under "Indications", second bullet is revised from: "Pain is predominantly axial and not associated with radiculopathy or neurogenic claudication" to "Pain is predominantly axial and, with the possible exception of facet joint cysts, not associated with radiculopathy or neurogenic claudication".	

[Back to Top](#)

Associated Documents

Attachments N/A

Related Local Coverage Documents N/A

Related National Coverage Documents N/A

Public Version(s) Updated on 01/11/2018 with effective dates 11/02/2016 - N/A [Updated on 10/31/2016 with effective dates 11/02/2016 - N/A](#) Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the [MCD Archive Site](#) to retrieve them. [Back to Top](#)

Keywords

- Facet joint injection
- Medial branch block
- Radiofrequency neurotomy
- RF
- MBB
- facet
- 64490
- 64491
- 64492
- 64493
- 64494
- 64495
- 64633
- 64634
- 64635
- 64636
- 0213T
- 0214T
- 0215T
- 0216T
- 0217T
- 0218T
-

Read the [LCD Disclaimer](#) [Back to Top](#)