Subject: Epidural and Paravertebral Anesthesia for Pain Management (revised)*

Effective Date: December 9, 2008

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Epidural and paravertebral anesthesia for pain management, including continuous use of this modality, is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure consistent and proper reimbursement for a medically necessary service.

Procedure:

A. The appropriate CPT code for placement of an epidural catheter for pain management is either 62318 or 62319.

B. The appropriate CPT codes for placement of a paravertebral catheter are 64510 (cervical) and 64520 (lumbar or thoracic).

C. CPT codes 62318, 62319, 64510 and 64520 cover both the placement of the epidural catheter and the initial day of epidural pain management.

D. The CPT code for each subsequent day of epidural or paravertebral pain management is one of the following: 01996, 99231, 99232, or 99233, which will be
paid at the applicable contracted rate of reimburse-
ment.

E. This policy applies to epidural or paravertebral pain management in the peri-operative and post-operative settings as well as non-surgical settings.

References:


Li Y, Zhu S, Yan M. Combined general-epidural anesthesia (ropivacaine 0.375%) versus general anesthesia for upper abdominal surgery. Anesth Analg 2008;106(5):1562-1565 (May)


Silverstein JH, Apfelbaum JL, Barlow JC *et al.* Practice Guidelines for Postanesthetic Care. *Anesthesiology* 2002;96(3):742-752 (March)


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.*