



# STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 906

**DATE:** May 24, 2010

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners

**ISSUED BY:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Injection Procedures for Pain Management

**EFFECTIVE:** July 1, 2010

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to clarify Iowa Medicaid coverage of pain injection procedures. Iowa Medicaid coverage is limited to services that are considered medically necessary. As indicated in Informational Letter No. 875, "Medicaid will only differ from Medicare in circumstances where Medicaid pays for a service that Medicare does not cover." As such, the IME will be utilizing the Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) in determining medical necessity for these procedures.

Recent changes were made to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) paravertebral joint injection codes. Effective January 1, 2010, the old facet injection block codes, 64470-64476, were deleted and replaced with new CPT codes, 64490-64495. The new codes limit billing of injections to 3 levels per day. Also, image guidance is now considered an inclusive component of these codes and is not separately reportable. Since image guidance and localization is required for the performance of the paravertebral joint injections described in CPT 64490-64495, CPT 20550-20553 should be billed if image guidance is not performed.

It is important to note that Iowa Medicaid does not cover occipital nerve block injections for the treatment of cervicogenic headache or occipital neuralgia. While our local Medicare fiscal intermediary does not have specific utilization guidelines for this procedure, LCD's from Medicare fiscal intermediaries in other jurisdictions have indicated that these diagnoses would not support the medical necessity for this injection procedure. In addition, many commercial payers do not cover this procedure as they consider this treatment as investigational and unproven. As such, injection therapies for this purpose would correspondingly not be covered by Iowa Medicaid.

Additional information regarding Iowa Medicare LCD's can be found at:

<http://www.wpsmedicare.com/j5macpartb/policy/active/local/>

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or locally (in Des Moines) at 515- 256-4609, or email at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).