Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is respective to how the provider is contracted with The Plan. Provider contractual agreement terms in direct conflict with this Reimbursement Policy may supersede this Policy’s direction and regional applicability.

Various methods of pain management may be used for both post-operative and nonsurgical pain control. The most common techniques include:

**Patient Controlled Analgesia:** Patient controlled analgesia therapy is a technique for pain management that involves self-administration of intravenous drugs through an infusion device.

**Epidural Analgesia:** Epidural analgesia involves the administration of a narcotic drug through an epidural catheter.

**Nerve Blocks:** A nerve block involves the injection of an anesthetic agent into or around a given nerve.

**REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:**

**Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)**

Any PCA services performed after the anesthesia care has ended, including initial set-up, subsequent adjustments, or follow-up related to this therapy are considered routine postoperative pain management, regardless of who performs it. When performed by the physician who administered anesthesia, or by a member of his group/association, the postoperative pain management is part of the global anesthesia allowance and, if billed separately, the pain management is not eligible for separate reimbursement. However, when postoperative pain management is provided by a physician other than those specified above, it will be denied as not covered. A participating or network provider can bill the member for the denied service.
PCA administered for nonsurgical pain management is considered a service that is included in a physician’s medical care; therefore, it is not eligible as a separate and distinct service when performed with medical care. If nonsurgical PCA is reported on the same day as medical care, and the charges are itemized, the Plan will combine the charges and pay only the medical care. Payment for the medical care performed on the same date of service includes the allowance for the nonsurgical PCA.

If the nonsurgical PCA is performed independently, process it under code 99499.

When patient controlled analgesia (PCA) is initiated in the recovery room by an anesthesiologist as part of his anesthesia time, the initial set-up time for PCA may be incorporated into the total number of anesthesia time units reported.

Note: Modifiers 25 may be reported with medical care to identify it as a significant, separately identifiable service from the nonsurgical PCA. When the 25 modifier is reported, the patient’s medical records must clearly document that separately identifiable medical care has been rendered.

Epidural Analgesia

The pre-, intra-, or post-operative insertion of an epidural catheter for post-operative pain control is not considered part of the global anesthesia allowance, and therefore, is eligible for separate payment. Daily Management of epidural drug administration is also eligible for separate payment after the day on which the catheter is inserted. Daily Management reported on the same day as the catheter insertion is not covered. A participating or network provider cannot bill the member for Daily Management on the same day as the catheter insertion.

Payment can also be made for the insertion of an epidural catheter for the treatment of a nonsurgical condition. Daily Management of epidural drug administration is also eligible for separate payment after the day on which the catheter is inserted. Daily Management reported on the same day as the catheter insertion is not covered. A network provider cannot bill the member for Daily Management on the same day as the catheter insertion.

Any follow-up care should be reimbursed based on the level of medical care reported (e.g., intermediate, extended, etc.).

Note: Modifier 59 may be reported with a non-E/M service, to identify it as distinct or independent from other non-E/M services performed on the same day. When modifier 59 is reported, the patient’s medical records must support its use in accordance with CPT guidelines.

Applicable codes: 62321 62322 62323 62324 62325 62327

Nerve Blocks

An injection/block administered pre-, intra-, or postoperatively is not considered part of the global anesthesia allowance and, therefore, is eligible for separate payment.

Applicable codes:

- 62273 62280 62281 62282 62310 62311 62318 62319 64400
- 64402 64405 64408 64410 64413 64415 64417 64418 64420
- 64421 64425 64430 64435 64445 64447 64450 64461 64462
- 64463 64505 64510 64517 64520 64530 64999 G9770
RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

Refer to the following Medical Policies for additional information:

- Medical Policy A-8: Payment for Anesthesia Services
- Medical Policy S-100: Multiple Surgical Procedures
- Medical Policy S-40: Implantable Infusion Pump
- Medical Policy S-189: Transforaminal Epidural Injection
- Medical Policy Z-61: Paravertebral Facet Joint Nerve Blocks

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

- Reimbursement Policy R-014: Multiple Surgical Procedures
- Reimbursement Policy R-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS and XU
Highmark Reimbursement Policy Bulletin

Bulletin Number: RP-032
Subject: Pain Management
Effective Date: March 5, 2018
Issue Date: March 5, 2018
End Date:
Source: Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market
PA ☒ WV ☒ DE ☒

Applicable Medicare Advantage Market
PA ☒ WV ☒

Applicable Claim Type
UB ☒ 1500 ☒

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This policy position applies to all commercial and/or Medicare Advantage lines of business as indicated above. Reimbursement policies are intended only to establish general guidelines for reimbursement under Highmark plans. Highmark retains the right to review and update its reimbursement policy guidelines at its sole discretion.

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**Applicable codes:**

- 62321
- 62322
- 62323
- 62324
- 62325
- 62327

**Nerve Blocks**

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Applicable codes:
62273  62280  62281  62282  62310  62311  62318  62319  64400  
64402  64405  64408  64410  64413  64415  64417  64418  64420  
64421  64425  64430  64435  64445  64447  64450  64461  64462  
64463  64505  64508  64510  64517  64520  64530  64999  G9770

RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:

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