

Subject: Important Update on Coverage for 0027T
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From: DRM@ASIPP.ORG

American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians 'The Voice of Interventional Pain Management'

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To: Board of Directors, CAC members and State Societies Presidents and CEOs

RE: Coverage for 0027T – Endoscopic lysis of epidural adhesions with direct visualization using mechanical means (e.g., spinal endoscopic catheter system) or solution injection (e.g., normal saline) including radiologic localization and epidurography

Dear Friends:

It has come to my attention that *Kentucky Medicare (AdminaStar Federal)* has now changed their name to *National Government Services* and has introduced an LCD for Category III CPT codes. Based on this LCD: **“This policy establishes non-coverage for Category III codes. Claims for these codes will not be paid unless an LCD or article has been published.”**

Consequently, your state may be doing something similar this. I am working on Indiana and Kentucky but I encourage you to please contact your Medicare if they cover endoscopic adhesiolysis 0027T. If an LCD exists with non-coverage for Category III codes, or for this code specifically, you should request an LCD or an article to be published so the procedure can be covered.

As you know the procedure is covered in hospital outpatient settings and also ASCs starting January 1, 2008. However, at the present time there is no fee schedule based on CMS publication thus, each carrier will determine a fee schedule for the procedure.

For the appropriate supporting literature please look at these reviews.

Boswell MV, Trescot AM, Datta S, Schultz DM, Hansen HC, Abdi S, Sehgal N, Shah RV, Singh V, Benyamin RM, Patel VB, Buenaventura RM, Colson JD, Cordner HJ, Epter RS, Jasper JF, Dunbar EE, Atluri SL, Bowman RC, Deer TR, Hansen HC, Staats PS, Smith HS, Burton AW, Kloth DS, Giordano J, Manchikanti L. Interventional techniques: Evidence-based practice guidelines in the management of chronic spinal pain. *Pain Physician* 2007; 10:7-111. <http://www.painphysicianjournal.com/2007/january/2007;10;7-111.pdf>

Trescot AM, Chopra P, Abdi S, Datta S, Schultz DM. Systematic review of effectiveness and complications of adhesiolysis in the management of chronic spinal pain: An update. *Pain Physician* 2007; 10: 129-146. <http://www.painphysicianjournal.com/2007/january/2007;10;129-146.pdf>

Chopra P, Smith HS, Deer TR, Bowman RD. Role of Adhesiolysis in the Management of Chronic Spinal Pain: A Systematic Review of Effectiveness and Complications. *Pain Physician* 2005; 8:87-100. <http://www.painphysicianjournal.com/2005/january/2005;8;87-100.pdf>

Manchikanti L, Boswell MV, Rivera JJ, Pampati V, Damron KS, McManus CD, Brandon DE, Wilson SR. A randomized, controlled trial of spinal endoscopic adhesiolysis in chronic refractory low back and lower extremity pain. *BMC Anesthesiol* 2005; 5:10. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2253-5-10.pdf>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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