



Anesthesia Policy for Pain Management

Effective 9/20/2023, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC) will cover epidurals that are administered for the prevention or control of acute pain, such as that which occurs during delivery or surgery, as professional services.

In addition to physical therapy, occupational therapy, medication therapy management (MTM), acupuncture, chiropractic, behavioral health, and addiction medicine services in coordination with case management, epidural steroid injection (ESI) therapy may now be utilized for treatment of chronic intractable pain also. Prior authorization (PA) may be required for certain Medicaid procedures or services. The Professional Services Fee Schedule will be updated to include CPT codes for the treatment of chronic intractable pain.

Medical necessity for epidural steroid injection (ESI) shall be determined by the history of illness, physical examination, and concordant diagnostic imaging supporting radiculopathy, radicular pain, or neurogenic claudication due to herniation, stenosis, and/or degenerative disease protracted and severe enough to greatly impact quality of life or function.

LDH has published Informational Bulletin 23-13 for your reference [IB23-13.pdf \(la.gov\)](#). Questions or concerns regarding this bulletin can be addressed by contacting United Healthcare Community Plan at 1-866-675-1607.