

**Policy: MP297**

**Section: Medical Benefit Policy**

**Subject: Suprascapular Nerve Block**

**I. Policy:** Suprascapular Nerve Block

**II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Suprascapular Nerve Block

**III. Responsibility:**

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management

**IV. Required Definitions**

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

**V. Additional Definitions**

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

- a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
- b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
- c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
- d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
- e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

**Medicaid Business Segment**

Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

- (i) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
- (ii) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- (iii) The service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional

capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age.

**INDICATIONS: REQUIRES PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY A PLAN MEDICAL DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE**

Suprascapular nerve block may be considered medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

To diagnose suprascapular neuropathy. One injection may be authorized for diagnostic purposes only if requested.

For treatment or for pain relief when **ALL of the following criteria are met:**

1. One of the following conditions:
  - Frozen Shoulder/adhesive capsulitis
  - Rotator cuff tear
  - Inflammatory glenohumeral arthritis
  - Confirmed suprascapular neuropathy

**and**

2. Documented failure or contraindication to pharmacologic therapy. There must be documentation of the use of at least two (2) classes of medications from the following list of medication classes must be submitted for review: NSAIDs, opiates, non-opioid analgesics, anti-epileptic medications used for treatment of chronic pain, antidepressant medications used for treatment of chronic pain, ASA or ASA derivatives, muscle relaxants, steroids, such as prednisone or Medrol or documented contraindication to each of these drug classes.

Please note that this procedure may be performed in association with rotator cuff surgery or shoulder replacement surgery. The authorization and claims related to this block in association with rotator cuff surgery or shoulder replacement would be associated with the procedure in question and not a separate authorization for outpatient services.

**LIMITATIONS**

If medical necessity for the procedure is met, up to three (3) injections may be approved initially. If there is greater than 50% reduction in symptoms with the initial blocks, the provider may request an additional series of up to three blocks not to exceed 6 (six) per calendar year. Please note for GHP Family, the Benefit Limit Exception (BLE) process will apply to requests for more than six (6) injections per calendar year.

**CODING ASSOCIATED WITH:** Suprascapular Nerve Block

***The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements***

64418 Injection, anesthetic agent, suprascapular nerve

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**LINE OF BUSINESS:**

**Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD's and NCD's will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.**

**REFERENCES:**

Shanahan E, Ahern M et al. Suprascapular nerve block (using bupivacaine and methylprednisolone acetate) in chronic shoulder pain. *Annals of Rheumatic Disease* 2003;62(5):400-406.

Chan CW, Peng PW. Suprascapular nerve block: a narrative review. *Reg Anesth Pain Med*. 2011 Jul-Aug;36(4):358-73.

Dahan TH, Fortin L, et al. Double blind randomized clinical trial examining the efficacy of bupivacaine suprascapular nerve blocks in frozen shoulder. *J Rheumatol*. 2000 Jun;27(6):1464-9.

This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 1/2015

**Revised:** 9/15, 7/17(revise drug requirement)

**Reviewed:** 10/16, 6/18