

A checked box indicates the policy is applicable to that market either entirely, or partially, as indicated within the policy.

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this policy.

#### **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**: Modifier 25 may be reported with medical care to identify it as a significant, separately identifiable service from the nonsurgical PCA. Modifier FT may be reported to identify an unrelated

evaluation and management (e/m) visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another e/m visit.

When the 25 or FT 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	G9770	64999	64530	64520	64400
64405	64408	64415	64417	64418	64420	64421	64425	64430
64435	64445	64447	64450	64461	64462	64463	64505	64510
64517	64520							

# **DEFINITIONS:**

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

Term	Definition
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.

Modifier	Definition
25	Significant, separately identifiable E&M service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same day.
59	Distinct procedural service.
FT	Unrelated evaluation and management (E/M) visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another E/M visit. (Report when an E/M visit is furnished within the global period but is unrelated, or when one more additional E/M visits furnished on the same day are unrelated.

# **RELATED POLICIES:**

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

• RP-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT

• RP-014: Multiple Surgical Procedures

RP-035: Correct Coding Guidelines

3 / 2018	Implementation
1 / 2020	Removed codes 64402, 64410 and 64413
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT
6 / 2022	Removed CPT codes 62310, 62311, 62318, 62319. Removed Medical Policy references
	A-8, S-100, S-40, S-189, Z-61.
8 / 2023	Administrative policy review with no changes in policy direction

HISTORY VERSION



**Bulletin Number:** RP-032

Subject: Pain Management

Effective Date: March 5, 2018 End Date:

Issue Date: July 18, 2022 Revised Date: June 2022

Date Reviewed: June 2022

**Source:** Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Commercial Market

**Applicable Medicare Advantage Market** 

Applicable Claim Type

PA WW DE NY DE NY DE NY DE NY DE

UB 1500

A checked box indicates the policy is applicable to that market sither eptirely, or partially, as indicated within the policy.

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prief to the effective date of this policy.

#### **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**: Modifier 25 may be reported with medical care to identify it as a significant, separately identifiable service from the nonsurgical PCA. Modifier FT may be reported to identify an unrelated

evaluation and management (e/m) visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another e/m visit.

When the 25 or FT 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-, infra-, or postoperatively is not considered part of the global anesthesia allowance and, therefore, is eligible for separate payment.

#### Applicable codes:

62273	62280	62281	62282	G9770	64999	64530	64520	64400
64405	64408	64415	64417	64418	64420	64421	64425	64430
64435	64445	64447	64450	64461	64462	64463	64505	64510
64517	64520							

# **DEFINITIONS:**

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

Patient Controlled Analgesia: Patient controlled analgesia therapy is a technique for pain management

that involves self-administration of intravenous drugs through an infusion

device.

<u>Epidural Analgesia</u>: 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.

### **RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:**

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

• R-014: Multiple Surgical Procedures

• R-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT

3 / 2018	Implementation
1 / 2020	Removed codes 64402, 64410 and 64413
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT
6 / 2022	Removed CPT codes 62310, 62311, 62318, 62319. Removed Medical Policy references
	A-8, S-100, S-40, S-189, Z-81.



HISTORY VERSION

**Bulletin Number: RP-032** 

Subject: Pain Management

**Effective Date:** March 5, 2018 **End Date:** 

Issue Date: January 2022 January 10, 2022 **Revised Date:** 

**Date Reviewed:** December 2021

Source: Reimbursement Policy

**Applicable Commercial Market** PA Applicable Medicare Advantage Market PA W۷ DE **1500** 

Applicable Claim Type

UB

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this policy.

#### **REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:**

# Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)

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

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**Note**: Modifier 25 may be reported with medical care to identify it as a significant, separately identifiable service from the nonsurgical PCA. Modifier FT may be reported to identify an unrelated

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evaluation and management (e/m) visit during a postoperative period, or on the same day as a procedure or another e/m visit.

When the 25 or FT 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
64405	64408	64415	64417	64418	64420	64421	64425	64430
64435	64445	64447	64450	64461	64462	64463	64505	64510
64517	64520	64530	64999	G9770				

# **DEFINITIONS:**

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

Patient Controlled Analgesia: Patient controlled analgesia therapy is a technique for pain management

that involves self-administration of intravenous drugs through an infusion

device.

<u>Epidural Analgesia</u>: 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.

### **RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:**

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

• A-8: Payment for Anesthesia Services

• S-100: Multiple Surgical Procedures

• S-40: Implantable Infusion Pump

• S-189: Transforaminal Epidural Injection

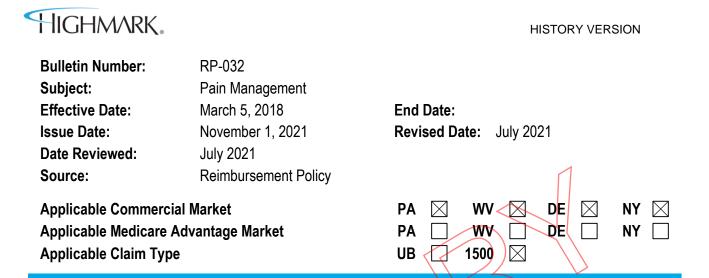
Z-61: Paravertebral Facet Joint Nerve Blocks

Refer to the following Reimbursement Policies for additional information:

• R-014: Multiple Surgical Procedures

R-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS, XU, FT

3 / 2018	Implementation
1 / 2020	Removed codes 64402, 64410 and 64413
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy
1 / 2022	Added modifier FT



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#### 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**: Modifier 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.

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
64405	64408	64415	64417	64418	64420	64421	64425	64430
64435	64445	64447	64450	64461	64462	64463	64505	64510
64517	64520	64530	64999	G9770				

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

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

Patient Controlled Analgesia: Patient controlled analgesia therapy is a technique for pain management

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device.

<u>Epidural Analgesia</u>: 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.

# **RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:**

Refer to the following Commercial Medical Policies for additional information:

• A-8: Payment for Anesthesia Services

S-100: Multiple Surgical Procedures

S-40: Implantable Infusion Pump

• S-189: Transforaminal Epidural Injection

Z-61: Paravertebral Facet Joint Nerve Blocks

Refer to the following Reimbursement Rolicies for additional information:

R-014: Multiple Surgical Procedures

R-009: Modifiers 25, 59, XE, XP, XS and XU

3 / 2018	Implementation
1 / 2020	Removed codes 64402, 64410 and 64413
11 / 2021	Added NY region applicable to the policy



CLICK FOR HISTORY VERSIONS

**Bulletin Number:** RP-032

Subject: Pain Management

**Effective Date:** March 5, 2018 **End Date:** 

Issue Date: January 1, 2020 Revised Date: January 2020

**Date Reviewed:** December 2019

Source: Reimbursement Policy

**Applicable Commercial Market** 

**Applicable Medicare Advantage Market** 

**Applicable Claim Type** 

1500

**UB** 

Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is based on how the provider is contracted with the Plan. This Policy supersedes direction provided in Bulletins prior to the effective date of this Policy.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

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.

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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**: Modifier 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

64405	64408	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

03 / 2018	Implementation
01 / 2020	Removed codes 64402, 64410 and 64413



CLICK HERE FOR HISTORY VERSIONS

Bulletin Number: RP-032

Subject: Pain Management

Effective Date: March 5, 2018 End Date:

Issue Date: December 27, 2018 Revised Date: December 13, 2018

**Source:** Reimbursement Policy

Applicable Claim Type UB ☐ 1500 ▷

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)

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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**: Modifier 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
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64463	64505		64510	64517	64520	64530	64999	G9770

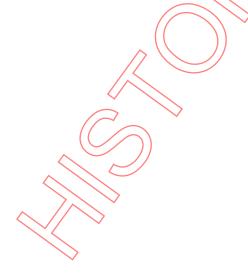
### **RELATED HIGHMARK POLICIES:**

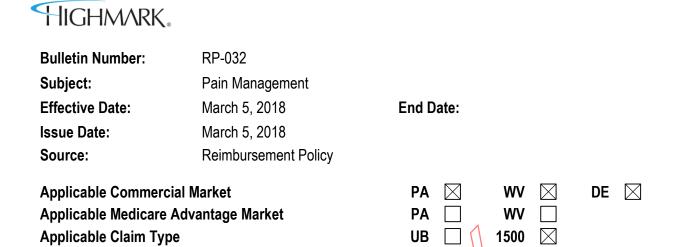
Refer to the following Medical Policies for additional information:

- 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





Reimbursement Policy designation of Professional or Facility application is respective to how the provider is contracted with The Plan. Provider contractual agreements supersede Reimbursement Policy 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

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.

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**: Modifier 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	64508	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