

# American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians®

"The Voice of Interventional Pain Management"

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July 17, 2017

Niles R. Rosen, MD

Medical Director

National Correct Coding Initiative

Correct Coding Solutions, LLC

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RE: Quarterly Update to National Correct Coding Initiative Edits, Version 23.1, Effective 4/1/2017

Dear Dr. Rosen:

On behalf of American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP), we thank you for continually updating the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI). The latest version, effective 4/1/2017, of the NCCI edits (version 23.1) has some serious implications. To avoid multiple issues connected to patient access, as well as an increase in the cost of service as patients may be required to return for a separate visit, which will actually cost Medicare much higher price. Please review and revise this policy. Appropriate explanation is provided herewith:

- 1) Column 1 code 64633 and 64635 are included in Column 2 with no modifier allowed for CPT codes 64479, 64484, 64491, 64492, 64494 and 64495, which are add-on codes for epidurals and nerve blocks. A patient may have a cervical facet joint nerve block with radiofrequency thermoneurolysis, one cannot bill for an add-on code for a lumbar transforaminal epidural injection with 64484 or add-on codes 64494 or 64495 for lumbar facet joint nerve blocks; likewise, if a lumbar facet joint nerve block with radiofrequency thermoneurolysis is performed, one cannot bill for an add-on code for a cervical transforaminal epidural injection with 64479 or add-on codes 64491 or 64492 for cervical facet joint nerve blocks.
- 2) Column 1 code 20610 are included in Column 2 with no modifier allowed for CPT codes 64480, 64484, 64494 and 64495, which are add-on codes for lumbar transforaminal epidurals and lumbar nerve blocks. A patient may have an intraarticular joint injection in the cervical or lumbar region, one cannot bill for additional levels of a lumbar or cervical transforaminal epidural with 64480 and 64484 or additional levels of lumbar facet joint nerve block with 64494 and 64495.

Once again, these factors may reduce the access and increase the cost because of the multiple visits being required to perform services in different regions. Thank you once again for your consideration.

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

Sincerely,

**Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD**

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To view some of Dr. Manchikanti's publications go to:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?cmd=search&db=pubmed&term=manchikanti>

“The world is run by those who show up.”

“There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn’t mind who gets the credit.”

*Ronald Reagan*