

# Cigna Medical Coverage Policies – Musculoskeletal Epidural Adhesiolysis

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## Instructions for use

The following coverage policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna. Coverage policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard Cigna benefit plans and are used by medical directors and other health care professionals in making medical necessity and other coverage determinations. Please note the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these coverage policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the coverage policy. In the absence of federal or state coverage mandates, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of:

1. The terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service
2. Any applicable laws and regulations
3. Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies
4. The specific facts of the particular situation

Coverage policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines.

This evidence-based medical coverage policy has been developed by eviCore, Inc. Some information in this coverage policy may not apply to all benefit plans administered by Cigna.

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## CMM-207: Epidural Adhesiolysis

### Definition

**Epidural adhesiolysis** is also known as epidural neurolysis, epidural decompressive neuroplasty, and Racz neurolysis. It is defined as a treatment for back pain that involves disruption, reduction, and/or elimination of fibrous tissue from the epidural space, which is carried out by either catheter manipulation or the injection of saline or other adhesiolytic agents. A catheter is used to enter the epidural space through a caudal, interlaminar, or transforaminal approach. The goal is to free the nerve root of adhesions and allow introduction of medications to the affected nerve root. An anesthetic along with a glucocorticosteroid may also be injected as part of the procedure. These procedures may also involve spinal endoscopy to visually address the adhesions.

### General Guidelines

Epidural adhesiolysis has been proposed as a method of treating nerve root adhesions. The procedure may also involve spinal endoscopy to visually address the adhesions and allows for the introduction of medications to the affected nerve root. In addition to an anesthetic, a glucocorticosteroid may also be injected as part of the procedure.

### Indications and Non-Indications

Epidural adhesiolysis, performed by catheter or endoscopically, as a treatment for back pain is considered **experimental, investigational or unproven (EIU)**.

### Procedure (CPT®) Codes

This guideline relates to the CPT® code set below. Codes are displayed for informational purposes only. Any given code's inclusion on this list does not necessarily indicate prior authorization is required.	
CPT®	Codes Considered Experimental, Investigational or Unproven (EIU)
62263	Percutaneous lysis of epidural adhesions using solution injection (e.g., hypertonic saline, enzyme) or mechanical means (e.g., catheter) including radiologic localization (includes contrast when administered), multiple adhesiolysis sessions; 2 or more days
62264	Percutaneous lysis of epidural adhesions using solution injection (e.g., hypertonic saline, enzyme) or mechanical means (e.g., catheter) including radiologic localization (includes contrast when administered), multiple adhesiolysis sessions; 1 day
62280	Injection/infusion of neurolytic substance (e.g., alcohol, phenol, iced saline solutions), with or without other therapeutic substance; subarachnoid
62281	Injection/infusion of neurolytic substance (e.g., alcohol, phenol, iced saline solutions), with or without other therapeutic substance; epidural, cervical or thoracic
62282	Injection/infusion of neurolytic substance (e.g., alcohol, phenol, iced saline solutions), with or without other therapeutic substance; epidural, lumbar, sacral (caudal)
This list may not be all inclusive and is not intended to be used for coding/billing purposes. The final determination of reimbursement for services is the decision of the health plan and is based on the individual's policy or benefit entitlement structure as well as claims processing rules.	

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