CIGNA MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICIES - MUSCULOSKELETAL

CMM-310: Manipulation of the Spine Under Anesthesia

Effective Date: March 07, 2026

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.

These guidelines include procedures EviCore does not review for Cigna. Please refer to the **Cigna CPT code list** for the current list of high-tech imaging procedures that EviCore reviews for Cigna.

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Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all individuals; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age. Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include the following: safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination, and violence; education, job opportunities, and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

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Manipulation of the spine under anesthesia (MUA) (i.e., when the individual is either sedated or under general anesthesia) is considered **medically necessary** when BOTH of the following criteria have been met:

- performed in an emergent situation as a closed treatment of traumatically induced vertebral fracture or dislocation to mitigate the potential for neurological compromise when a qualified physician has considered the decision for an open reduction
- performed in conjunction with an active rehabilitation/home exercise program.

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Non-Indications

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- Based on the lack of evidence of long-term efficacy and safety, manipulation of the spine under anesthesia (MUA) performed in the absence of traumatically induced vertebral fracture or dislocation is considered **not medically necessary**.
- Manipulation of the spine under anesthesia (MUA) performed in isolation (i.e., without the individual participating in an active rehabilitation program/home exercise program) is considered **not medically necessary**.

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Codes (CMM-310)

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The inclusion of any code in this table does not imply that the code is under management or requires prior authorization. Refer to the applicable health plan for management details. Prior authorization of a code listed in this table is not a guarantee of payment. The Certificate of Coverage or Evidence of Coverage policy outlines the terms and conditions of the member's health insurance policy.

CPT	Code Description/Definition
22505	Manipulation of spine requiring anesthesia, any region.

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