



CLINICAL GUIDELINES

CMM-400: Anesthesia Services for Interventional Pain Procedures Guidelines

Effective February 25, 2026

VERSION 1.1.2025

EviCore
By **EVERNORTH**

EviCore healthcare Clinical Decision Support Tool Diagnostic Strategies: This tool addresses common symptoms and symptom complexes. Requests for individuals with atypical symptoms or clinical presentations that are not specifically addressed will require physician review. Consultation with the referring physician, specialist and/or individual's Primary Care Physician (PCP) may provide additional insight.

EviCore's Clinical Review Criteria (CRC) and related content is made available for the limited uses of: reference; and individual use, only limited to facilitating the determination of medically necessary and appropriate clinical treatment by clinicians for specific delegated patients under their care. The CRC and related content is proprietary information of EviCore, and copyrighted to the full extent of the law. Except as expressly permitted, you may not modify, copy, reproduce, republish, upload, post, transmit, hyperlink to or from, or distribute in any way the CRC, nor may you sell, transfer, distribute, assign, lease, reproduce, or otherwise use the CRC in commerce, in a manner that competes with us or infringes upon our rights, or for any public or commercial endeavor without our prior and express written consent.

CPT® (Current Procedural Terminology) is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT® five digit codes, nomenclature and other data are copyright 2025 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values or related listings are included in the CPT® book. AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein or not contained herein.

©2025 EVICORE HEALTHCARE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CMM-400: Anesthesia Services for Interventional Pain**Definitions****General Guidelines****Indications****Non-Indications****Codes (CMM-400)****References (CMM-400)**

Definitions

- **Conscious Sedation** includes:
 - ◆ **Minimal Sedation (Anxiolysis)**: a drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, ventilation and cardiovascular functions are unaffected².
 - ◆ **Moderate Sedation/Analgesia (conscious sedation)**: a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which individuals respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained².
 - ◆ **Deep Sedation/Analgesia**: a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which individuals cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully after repeated or painful stimulation².
- **Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC)**: includes the administration of sedatives and/or analgesics often used for mild to moderate sedation. An essential component of MAC is the periprocedural anesthesia assessment and understanding of the individual's coexisting medical conditions and management of an individual's actual or anticipated physiological derangements or medical problems that may occur during a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.
 - ◆ MAC is administered by a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) or anesthesiologist.
 - ◆ A mandatory professional qualification to provide MAC is that the provider must be prepared and qualified to intervene to rescue an individual's airway (i.e., to convert to general anesthesia) from any sedation-induced compromise⁶.
- **General Anesthesia**: a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which individuals are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Individuals often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired².

General Guidelines

- The determination of medical necessity for the **performance of** monitored anesthesia care (MAC) is always made on a case-by-case basis.
- Only one anesthesia delivery CPT® code is allowed on a single date of service.
- The medical necessity of the primary pain procedure is made independent of any prior medical necessity determinations for monitored anesthesia care (MAC).
- Monitored anesthesia care (MAC) is only considered once an interventional pain procedure is approved **or** if the interventional pain procedure does not require prior authorization.
 - Benefits, coverage policies, and eligibility issues pertaining to each health plan may take precedence over these guidelines. Providers are urged to obtain written instructions and requirements directly from each payor.

Indications

Monitored anesthesia care (MAC) is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the associated criteria have been met for **BOTH** the **performance of** MAC **AND** for the **delivery of** MAC.

Criteria for the Performance of MAC

MAC is considered **medically necessary** for **EITHER** of the following clinical scenarios:

- MAC will be used during **ANY** of the following interventional pain procedures⁷:
 - ◆ Regional sympathetic blocks
 - ◆ Radiofrequency ablation of the medial branch nerves
 - ◆ Discography
 - ◆ Spinal cord stimulator trial and permanent implantation
 - ◆ Vertebral augmentation
 - ◆ Implantation of intrathecal drug delivery systems
- There is a presence of **ANY** of the following:
 - ◆ Attestation that a behavioral health professional has determined that severe anxiety, psychiatric condition(s), or cognitive impairment(s) would decrease an individual's safety during the procedure¹²
 - ◆ Hyperkinetic movement disorders including **ANY** of the following¹¹:
 - Acquired/traumatic/hypoxic brain injury/stroke
 - Athetoid cerebral palsy
 - Basal ganglia disease
 - Dystonia
 - Familial paroxysmal choreoathetosis
 - Hemiballismus
 - Huntington's Chorea
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Paroxysmal kinesigenic choreoathetosis
 - Spasticity related involuntary movements

- Spinal cord injury
- ◆ Individuals at risk for airway obstruction due to an anatomic variation including **ANY** of the following^{10,13}:
 - Dysmorphic facial features
 - History of stridor
 - Jaw abnormalities (e.g., micrognathia)
 - Mallampati score of 4
 - Neck abnormalities (e.g., mass)
 - Oral abnormalities (e.g., macroglossia)
 - Pierre-Robin syndrome
 - Trisomy 21
- ◆ Significant medical condition that increases the risk for complications including **ANY** of the following⁹:
 - Active hepatitis
 - Cardiac disease including **ANY** of the following:
 - Poorly controlled hypertension
 - Implanted pacemaker/defibrillator
 - Moderate to severe reduction in ejection fraction requiring medical treatment
 - End stage renal disease requiring dialysis
 - Morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²)
 - Pulmonary disease including poorly controlled COPD requiring oxygen
 - Sleep apnea requiring **BOTH** of the following during sleep:
 - BiPAP support
 - Supplemental oxygen

Criteria for the Delivery of MAC

When the above criteria for the performance of MAC are met, **ALL** of the following **delivery criteria must also be met**⁵:

- A preoperative evaluation (including airway examination and medical assessment) has been performed by a member of the anesthesia delivery team.
- Informed consent has been obtained with a discussion of alternative sedation options.
- **BOTH** of the following must be present during the delivery of MAC:
 - ◆ Continual monitoring of ventilatory function with capnography to supplement standard monitoring by observation and pulse oximetry
 - ◆ A qualified medical professional to recognize and treat airway complications.
- Recovery from MAC will be managed by skilled nursing personnel with direct supervision by a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) or anesthesiologist.

Non-Indications

Not Medically Necessary

- Monitored anesthesia care (MAC) performed **and** delivered without meeting the criteria listed in the **Definitions**, the **General Guidelines**, and the **Indications** sections is considered **not medically necessary**.
- Monitored anesthesia care (MAC) is considered **not medically necessary** when performed for **EITHER** of the following clinical scenarios:
 - ◆ Performed for manipulation of the spine
 - ◆ Performed for closed procedures on the cervical, thoracic, or lumbar spine

Codes (CMM-400)

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
01991	Anesthesia for Diagnostic or Therapeutic Nerve Blocks and Injections (When Block or Injection is Performed by a Different Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional); Other Than the Prone Position
01992	Anesthesia for Diagnostic or Therapeutic Nerve Blocks and Injections (When Block or Injection is Performed by a Different Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional); Prone Position
01939	Anesthesia for percutaneous image-guided destruction procedures by neurolytic agent on the spine or spinal cord; cervical or thoracic
01940	Anesthesia for percutaneous image-guided destruction procedures by neurolytic agent on the spine or spinal cord; lumbar or sacral
01941	Anesthesia for percutaneous image-guided neuromodulation or intravertebral procedures (e.g., kyphoplasty, vertebroplasty) on the spine or spinal cord; cervical or thoracic
01942	Anesthesia for percutaneous image-guided neuromodulation or intravertebral procedures (e.g., kyphoplasty, vertebroplasty) on the spine or spinal cord; lumbar or sacral
00640	Anesthesia for Procedures on Cervical Spine and Cord; Procedures with patient in the Sitting Position

References (CMM-400)

1. Abram S, Francis M. *Hazards of sedation for interventional pain procedures: the anesthesia patient safety foundation newsletter*. 2012;27(2):29-31.
2. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Continuum of depth of sedation: definition of general anesthesia and levels of sedation/analgesia*. Committee of origin: Quality Management and Departmental Administration. Last amended October 15, 2014.
3. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Position on monitored anesthesia care*. Last amended October 16, 2013.
4. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Practice Guidelines for Chronic Pain Management: An Updated Report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Chronic Pain Management and the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine*. April 2010.
5. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Practice guidelines for moderate procedural sedation and analgesia*. 2018: a report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Moderate Procedural Sedation and Analgesia, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American College of Radiology, American Dental Association, American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists, and Society of Interventional Radiology. *Anesthesiology*. 2018;128:437-479. doi:10.1097/ALN.0000000000002043.
6. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Standards and Guidelines Distinguishing Monitored Anesthesia Care from Moderate Sedation/Analgesia*. October 17 2018.
7. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Statement on anesthetic care during interventional pain procedures for adults*. Last amended October 26, 2016.
8. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Statement on regional anesthesia*. Last amended October 25, 2017.
9. American Society of Anesthesiologists. *Practice guidelines for management of the difficult airway: An updated report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Management of the Difficult Airway*. 2013;118:251-270.
10. Early DS, Lightdale JR, Vargo JJ, et al. Guidelines for sedation and anesthesia in GI endoscopy. *Gastrointest Endosc*. 2018;98(2):327-337. doi:10.1016/j.gie.2017.07.018.
11. Ene, H. Hyperkinetic movement disorders (including dystonias, choreas). *PM&R Knowledge Now*. 9/20/14
12. Spine Intervention Society FactFinders For Patient Safety. Conscious Sedation. February 2018.
13. Vargo JJ, Delegge MH, Feld AD, et al. Multisociety sedation curriculum for gastrointestinal endoscopy. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2012. doi:10.1038/ajg.2012.112.