



CLINICAL GUIDELINES

# CMM-405: Spinal Fluoroscopy

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VERSION 1.0.2026

**EviCore**  
By ~~EVERNORTH~~

EviCore healthcare Clinical Decision Support Tool Diagnostic Strategies: This tool addresses common symptoms and symptom complexes. Imaging 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.

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# Definitions

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## Definitions

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### **Fluoroscopy**

an imaging procedure using a continuous x-ray image shown on a monitor for locating anatomic structures.

# General Guidelines

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# General Guidelines

**CMM.PN.GG.405****v1.0.2026****Application of Guideline**

- The guideline criteria are only applicable to fluoroscopic-guidance for a primary spinal or paraspinal injection procedure (diagnostic or therapeutic).

**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.

# Indications

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# Indications

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Fluoroscopic-guidance is considered **medically necessary** when ALL of the following criteria have been met:

- Performed with a concomitant primary spinal or paraspinal injection procedure (diagnostic or therapeutic) needing the assistance of x-ray guidance
- Placement of needle or catheter at the neural structure cannot be adequately performed without image-guidance
- Imaging-guidance is not already included in the planned procedure(s)

# Non-Indications

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# Non-Indications

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## Not Medically Necessary

- Fluoroscopic-guidance performed without meeting the criteria in Definitions, General Guidelines, and Indications sections is considered **not medically necessary**.

# Codes (CMM-405)

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# Codes (CMM-405)

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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.

| Code  | Code Description/Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 77003 | Fluoroscopic guidance and localization of needle or catheter tip for spine or paraspinous diagnostic or therapeutic injection procedures (epidural or subarachnoid) (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |

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# References (CMM-405)

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## References (CMM-405)

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1. Dinakar P. CH. 52: Pain Management. In: Jankovic J, Mazziotta JC, Pomeroy SL, Newman NJ, Bradley WG, eds. *Bradley and Daroff's Neurology in Clinical Practice*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Elsevier. 2022.
2. Gropper MA, Lee AF, Eriksson LI, et al., eds. *Miller's Anesthesia*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Elsevier. 2024.
3. Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI). *Health Care Guideline: Adult Acute and Subacute Low Back Pain*. 16<sup>th</sup> ed. Bloomington (MN). Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement;. 2018. Available at: <https://www.icsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/March-2018-LBP-Interactive2.pdf>.