

Coding and Reimbursement Digest

October 2024

Health Policy and Economics

[Including nerve blocks in uterine artery embolization improves likelihood of same-day discharge](#)
[Is ultrasound necessary for all interventional procedures requiring femoral artery access?](#)
[IRs earn more than their diagnostic counterparts, though the gap is narrowing](#)

SIR gets coverage for pneumatic compression devices

SIR has prevailed in our fight to get Medicare Administrative Contractors Noridian and CGS—A Celerian Group Company (CGS) to lift their restrictive local coverage determinations (LCD) that made it difficult for physicians to treat patients who need pneumatic compression devices (PCD). Starting Nov. 14, Noridian and CGS will begin following the national coverage determination (NCD) for claims for service on or after that date. This decision affects all jurisdictions for Medicare suppliers who furnish durable medical equipment. Since 2022, Noridian and CGS have limited PCD coverage for Medicare beneficiaries, but SIR, along with the American Vein and Lymphatic Society, the American Venous Forum, Society for Vascular Surgery and Industry, fought the decision. Read the decisions from [Noridian](#) and [CGS](#) on their company websites.

Proposed LCD Intervertebral Disc Repair

On October 10, SIR submitted comment letters to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) contractors Noridian and Palmetto on their proposed local coverage determination (LCD) for Intervertebral Disc Repair and the related draft billing and coding article. We disagree with the proposed LCDs noncoverage of minimally invasive, intradiscal injection therapy for Intervertebral Disc Repair currently covered under code 0627T. The scope of this LCD is too broad, denying coverage for all injections for intervertebral disc repair. There is an accumulating body of clinical evidence which demonstrates that this treatment is safe and effective for the treatment of patients with chronic lumbar discogenic pain.

[Noridian Comment Letter / Proposed LCD / Billing and Coding Article](#)
[Palmetto Comment Letter / Proposed LCD / Draft Billing and Coding Article](#)

Humana Closed-Loop Spinal Cord Stimulation

On October 9, 2024, SIR, in collaboration with the Multisociety Pain Workgroup (MPW), sent a letter to Humana expressing our objection to their policies that state closed-loop spinal cord stimulation (SCS) therapy is experimental, investigational, and/or unproven. We asked them to align both commercial and Medicare Advantage policies to ensure that chronic pain patients can access the most advanced and effective treatments.

[SIR comment letter](#)

WA State Healthcare Authority vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty, and sacroplasty

On Oct 3, SIR sent a formal comment letter, in collaboration with the Multisociety Pain Workgroup (MPW), to the Washington (WA) State Health Care Authority concerning the efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness of vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty, and sacroplasty. The letter urges reconsidering the non-coverage decision for osteoporotic vertebral compression fractures (VCFs).

WA State Health Care Authority provides policies that cover workers' compensation, Medicaid, and State Employees. The last Health Technology Assessment was published on Nov 5, 2010. WA State opened a public comment period seeking new evidence that has been published subsequent to the 2010 review. Following this comment period, the WA State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) will hold a public meeting on Nov 15, where SIR clinical experts will present to the committee.

[SIR comment letter](#)



Health policy actions AMA

- [Comment Letters](#)
- [SIR FY 2025 IPPS FR summary](#)
- [SIR MPFS PR CY 2025 summary](#)
- [SIR MPFS PR CY 2025 impact analysis](#)
- [SIR HOPPS CY 2025 summary](#)
- [SIR HOPPS CY 2025 impact analysis](#)

IR Quarterly

- [Summer 2024 Coding for thoracic duct cannulation](#)
- [Spring 2024 Intraoperative computed tomography](#)
- [Selective internal radiation therapy \(SIRT\) with Y-90](#)

SIR members, we are here to help

[Submit your coding question to our experts.](#)
[Submit your denied IR procedure.](#)