

September 5, 2024, Medical Services Review Board workgroup

Discussion items for nerve root block work group. Items 1-3 are the current rule, MN Rules 5221.6200, subp. 5 (4).

1. Time for treatment response, within one week.
 - **What is a medically reasonable time for a response for a nerve root block?**
 - **Are there factors that may change this answer?**

2. Maximum treatment frequency, can repeat injection two weeks after the previous injection if a positive response to the first injection. Only three injections to different sites are reimbursable per patient visit; and
 - **What is a suitable time between nerve root blocks?**
 - **Is there a tool to use to measure objective functional gains?**
 - **Is diminishing control of symptoms still the best description to discontinue nerve root blocks?**
 - **Would it ever be medically necessary to give more than 3 injections to different sites per visit?**

3. Maximum treatment, two injections to any one site . – **The two nerve root block limit in the current rules could be clarified.**
 - Details we have seen to clarify from the other states include:
 - **Specifying nerve root blocks per level-currently it could be argued whether this is 3 total, per level, etc.**
 - **Limiting the number of nerve root blocks in a given time period (e.g. 12-months)**
 - **Limiting per date of injury**
 - **Basis on the physical response or symptomology? Does symptomology need to be outlined/considered before the first nerve root block, as well as repeat?**
 - **Specifics on whether other types of injections (or certain treatments) can be performed at the same time?**
 - **Based on standard of practice and literature, what is the best way to clarify the maximum language?**
 - **How much detail such as noted above is necessary?**