

November 7, 2024 MSRB work group

Discussion items for facet joint and nerve injections. Items 1-3 are the current rule, MN rule 5221.6200 subp. 5 (3).

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, once every two weeks to any one site if a positive response to the first injection. If subsequent injections demonstrate diminishing control of symptoms or fail to facilitate objective functional gains, then injections should be discontinued. No more than three injections to different sites are reimbursable per patient visit; and
  - **What is a suitable time between facet joint and nerve injections?**
  - **Is there a tool to use to measure objective functional gains?**
  - **Is diminishing control of symptoms still the best description to discontinue facet joint and nerve injections?**
  - **Would it ever be medically necessary to give more than 3 injections to different sites per visit?**
  
3. Maximum treatment, three injections to any one site . – **The three facet joint and nerve injections limit in the current rules could be clarified.**
  - Details we have seen to clarify from the other states include:
    - **Specifying facet joint and nerve injections per level-currently it could be argued whether this is 3 total, per level, etc.**
    - **Limiting the number of facet joint and nerve injections 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 facet joint and nerve injections, 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?**