

Children's Hospital and Health System Chorus Community Health Plans (CCHP) Policy and Procedure

This policy applies to the following entity(s):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Milwaukee | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Fox Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Surgicenter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Community Services Division | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chorus Community Health Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Primary Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Specialty Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Urgent Care | <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Corporate Departments |

Medical Utilization Management Policy

SUBJECT: GENICULAR NERVE BLOCK FOR OSTEOARTHRITIC KNEE PAIN

INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):

Medicaid

BadgerCare Plus

Care4Kids Program

Individual and Family

Commercial

Marketplace

PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this policy is to define criteria for the medically necessary use of genicular nerve block for severe osteoarthritic (OA) knee pain. The published evidence is currently insufficient to support genicular nerve blocks for management of knee pain; however, there is some evidence that peripheral nerve radiofrequency ablation (RFA) may improve knee pain and function. Therefore, genicular nerve block may be indicated as a diagnostic step to ensure that ablating the nerve would provide therapeutic benefit.

POLICY:

MCG Careweb guidelines do not currently include genicular nerve blocks. This CCHP policy will be used to determine the medically necessary use of genicular nerve blocks:

Genicular nerve blocks may be indicated when **ALL** of the following are present:

1. Diagnostic genicular nerve block is needed to confirm that the genicular nerve is the pain source
2. Member is a candidate for genicular nerve RFA, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:

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Last reviewed: 10/22

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- a. Chronic (duration of 3 or more months) OA knee pain
- b. Failure of 3 months or more of nonoperative management, as indicated by **ONE** of the following:
 - i. Corticosteroid injection
 - ii. Exercise program
 - iii. Pharmacotherapy
 - iv. Weight loss
- c. Imaging studies have ruled out other causes of knee pain (eg fracture, tumor)
- d. No coagulopathy
- e. No current infection

REFERENCES:

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5. Santana Pineda MM, Vanlinthout LE, Moreno Martin A, van Zundert J, Rodriguez Huertas F, Novalbos Ruiz JP. Analgesic effect and functional improvement caused by radiofrequency treatment of genicular nerves in patients with advanced osteoarthritis of the knee until 1 year following treatment. *Reg Anesth Pain Med*. 2017;42(1):62-68.
6. Sari S, Aydin ON, Turan Y, Ozlulerden P, Efe U, Kurt Omurlu I. Which one is more effective for the clinical treatment of chronic pain in knee osteoarthritis: radiofrequency neurotomy of the genicular nerves or intra-articular injection? *Int J Rheum Dis*. 2016.
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