

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

This policy applies to the following entity(s):

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| <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: SPHENOPALATINE GANGLION BLOCK

INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):

Medicaid

BadgerCare Plus

Care4Kids Program

Individual and Family

Commercial

Marketplace

PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this CCHP policy is to summarize the current evidence about sphenopalatine ganglion blocks for treatment and prevention of migraine and non-migraine headaches, and outline CCHP coverage decisions.

DEFINITIONS AND BACKGROUND:

Sphenopalatine ganglion (SPG) blocks are a suggested treatment for chronic migraine headaches and other severe headache disorders. The SPG is a collection of neurons located behind the nose. SPG blocks are performed by applying topical anesthetic to the mucosa covering the SPG.

During a SPG block, local anesthetic is placed on the posterior surface of the nasal cavity by an intranasal catheter. An alternate technique involves placing a cotton-tipped applicator saturated with local anesthetic into the nose.

A review of the current literature yields minimal support for SPG blocks for migraine headaches. Only three studies suggesting that SPG block reduces migraine pain could be identified. The current evidence is insufficient to determine if these benefits are clinically significant, when compared with sham or inactive treatment. The potential benefits seen in these few studies

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could not be consistently validated in a randomized placebo-controlled trial. Clinical practice guidelines supporting the use of SPG block in migraine headache treatment are lacking. No systematic reviews supporting SPG blocks for migraine headaches could be found in the literature review.

POLICY:

Given the lack of evidence demonstrating consistent efficacy, CCHP does not consider SPG blockade to be medically necessary for the treatment or prevention of migraine and non-migraine headache. Therefore, requests for SPG blocks to treat or prevent headaches will not be authorized.

REFERENCES:

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