

June 16, 2023



Re: Medical coverage policy update – Frequency limitation for multiple intra-articular corticosteroid injections effective September 17, 2023

We routinely review our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies for potential updates. In that review, we take into consideration one or more of the following: Evidence-based medicine (EBM), professional society recommendations, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, industry standards, and our other existing policies.

As a result of a recent review, we will deny intra-articular corticosteroid injections for the treatment of chronic osteoarthritic joint pain as not medically necessary when administered at a frequency greater than either four in a 12-month rolling timeframe or two per day. Denials will include medical necessity appeal rights.

This update is effective for dates of service on or after September 17, 2023. We will update the Miscellaneous Musculoskeletal Procedures (0515) medical coverage policy to reflect this change.

Additional information

For more information about our policy updates, visit the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website (CignaforHCP.com) > Resources > Coverage Policies > Policy Updates.

If you are not a registered user, please register so that you may log in and access all of our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies. Go to CignaforHCP.com and click Register. If you do not have Internet access or would like additional information, call Cigna Customer Service at **800.88Cigna (882.4462)**.

Thank you for the care you provide to our customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JB Kessel MD".

Julie B. Kessel, MD
Medical Officer for Coverage Policy
Clinical Performance & Quality Organization

At a glance

- We will deny intra-articular corticosteroid injections administered at a frequency greater than four in a 12-month rolling timeframe or two per day as not medically necessary.
- This update is effective for dates of service on or after September 17, 2023.
- For additional information, call Cigna Customer Service at **800.88Cigna (882.4462)**.