
To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: August 16, 2023

Subject: Informational Bulletin 23-13: Anesthesia for Pain Management

Informational Bulletins that summarize policies and/or procedures are intended for quick reference and are accurate on the date they are issued.

Anesthesia for Pain Management

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana would like to make you aware that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has updated their policy for anesthesia to include guidance for pain management.

This policy will be effective on **September 20, 2023**. This information has been incorporated into our Provider Handbook and can be found below

<https://www.amerihealthcaritasla.com/pdf/provider/resources/manual/handbook.pdf>.

Questions regarding this message should be directed to AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007. The Provider Services Department can be reached between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily.

Missed an Informational Bulletin?

You can find a complete listing of Informational Bulletins on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website under the header [Louisiana Department of Health Information Bulletins](#).

Need to update your provider information? Send full details to:
network@amerihealthcaritasla.com.

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana covers epidurals that are administered for the prevention or control of acute pain, such as that which occurs during delivery or surgery, as professional services for this purpose only.

Pain Management – Chronic Intractable Pain

Coverage for chronic intractable pain is dependent on the clinical etiology and the type of service or treatment. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's coverage policy includes the provisions within this section.

If an enrollee requests treatment for chronic intractable pain, depending on the underlying cause or anatomical defect, the provider may determine treatment or management to include physical therapy, occupational therapy, medication therapy management (MTM), epidural steroid injection (ESI) therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic, behavioral health and addiction medicine services in coordination with case management. These include some alternative treatments, and the inclusion of coverage on the Professional Services Fee Schedule will define covered treatments.

Certain Medicaid procedures or services may require prior authorization. CPT codes for the treatment of chronic intractable pain requiring PA can be identified on the PA Lookup Tool on the AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana website.

Note: Medical necessity for epidural steroid injection (ESI) is determined by the history of illness, physical examination, and concordant diagnostic imaging supporting radiculopathy, radicular pain, or neurogenic claudication due to herniation, stenosis, and/or degenerative disease protracted and severe enough to greatly impact quality of life or function.