



## Genicular Nerve Injection

*Clinical Guidelines for Medical Necessity Review*

**Version:** V1.0  
**Effective Date:** July 1, 2023

# Important Notices

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## Guideline Information:

**Disease Area:** Cardiology

**Care Path Group:** Not applicable

**Guideline Name:** Genicular Nerve Injection

**Type:** ☒ Adult (18+ yo) | ☐ Pediatric (0-17yo)

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## Table of Contents

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Important Notices</b>           | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Medical Necessity Criteria</b>  | <b>4</b> |
| Service: Genicular Nerve Injection | 4        |
| General Guidelines                 | 4        |
| Medical Necessity Criteria         | 4        |
| Indications                        | 4        |
| Non-Indications                    | 5        |
| Site of Service Criteria           | 5        |
| Procedure Codes (HCPCS/CPT)        | 5        |
| <b>References</b>                  | <b>6</b> |

# Medical Necessity Criteria

## ***Service: Genicular Nerve Injection***

### General Guidelines

- **Units, Frequency, & Duration:** When medical necessity criteria is met, a total of one set of genicular nerve blocks (to each of the three applicable genicular nerves) per side may be performed in 3 months.
- **Criteria for Subsequent Requests:** If the patient has had genicular nerve block within the last three months, a second injection may be considered. If the patient has had two or more genicular nerve blocks in the past six months and the previous injection resulted in 50% improvement of symptoms for three months, then another injection may be considered.<sup>1</sup>
- **Recommended Clinical Approach:** Genicular nerves provide sensory innervation to your knee and include the: (1) Superolateral genicular nerve (SLGN); (2) Superomedial genicular nerve (SMGN); (3) Inferomedial genicular nerve (IMGN) and (4) Inferolateral genicular nerve (ILGN). Genicular nerve blocks are a procedure used to alleviate pain originating from the genicular nerves in the knee joint. These nerves are responsible for transmitting pain signals from the knee joint to the brain. Genicular nerve blocks are typically performed as a diagnostic tool or as a therapeutic intervention for knee pain that has not responded to conservative treatments.<sup>2-7</sup> Physicians can safely target all of these nerves for a genicular nerve block except for the ILGN.<sup>8</sup> This is because the ILGN is too close to the peroneal nerve.
- **Exclusions:** Active systemic infection, Coagulopathy or bleeding diathesis, active use of antiplatelet or anticoagulant medications, pregnancy, allergy to local anesthetics or other medications used during the procedure.

### Medical Necessity Criteria

#### **Indications**

- Genicular Nerve Injection is considered appropriate if **ANY** of the following are **TRUE**<sup>2,9-11</sup>:
- ◆ Initial Genicular Nerve injection and **ANY** of the following:
    - Documentation of failed conservative treatments (e.g., physical therapy, medications, injections) for at least 3 months.
    - The patient has **ANY** of the following conditions:

- Chronic Knee Pain
- Osteoarthritis
- Knee Injury (e.g., acute or chronic knee pain resulting from an injury, such as ligament tears, meniscal tears, or patellofemoral dysfunction)
- Previous knee surgery and have **ANY** of the following:
  - ◆ Continued pain
  - ◆ Continued functional limitations
- For patient evaluation, as a diagnostic tool to determine the source of knee pain.
- ◆ Subsequent Genicular Nerve injection and **ALL** of the following:
  - If the patient has had two or more genicular nerve blocks in the past six months
  - Previous injection resulted in 50% improvement of symptoms for three months.

### Non-Indications

- Genicular Nerve Injection may not be considered appropriate if **ANY** of the following are **TRUE**:
- ◆ Active systemic infection.
  - ◆ Coagulopathy or bleeding diathesis.
  - ◆ Active use of antiplatelet or anticoagulant medications.
  - ◆ Pregnancy.
  - ◆ Allergy to implant materials.

### Site of Service Criteria

Outpatient.

### Procedure Codes (HCPCS/CPT)

| HCPCS/CPT Code | Code Description/Definition                                                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 64454          | Injection(s), anesthetic agent(s) and/or steroid; genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance, when performed |

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