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## SHP Genicular Nerve Ablation

AUTH: SHP Surgical 110 v6 (AC)

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**MCG Health**  
Ambulatory Care  
26th Edition

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### Coverage

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See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.

### Application to Products

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- Policy is applicable to all products.

### Authorization Requirements

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Pre-certification by the Plan is required.

### Description of Item or Service

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Genicular nerve ablation uses heat, cold or chemicals to disrupt nerve transmission with the goal of alleviating pain. Types of Genicular Nerve ablation are radiofrequency (RFA), pulsed radiofrequency, cooled radiofrequency (COOLIEF, Iovera) cryoablation, cryoneurolysis/cryoanalgesia, or chemical neurolysis (chemodenervation).

### Exceptions and Limitations

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There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of this service as it is not shown to improve health outcomes upon technology review.

### Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- NA

### Document History

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- Revised Dates:
  - 2021: March, June
  - 2020: March
  - 2019: November
- Reviewed Dates:
  - 2023: February
  - 2022: March
  - 2018: September
  - 2017: June
- Effective Date: September 2016

### Coding Information

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- CPT/HCPCS codes covered if policy criteria is met:
  - None
- CPT/HCPCS codes considered not medically necessary per this Policy:
  - CPT 64454 - Injection(s), anesthetic agent(s) and/or steroid; genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance, when performed
  - CPT 64624 - Destruction by neurolytic agent, genicular nerve branches including imaging guidance, when performed

### References

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References used include but are not limited to the following:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; Uptodate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

(2023). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from MCG 26th Edition: <https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed26/index.html>

(2023). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services NCD: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search-results.aspx?keyword=genicular&keywordType=starts&areald=all&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all>

COOLIEF. (2023). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from Avanos - COOLIEF: <https://avanospainmanagement.com/solutions/chronic-pain/>

DMAS. (2022). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from DMAS: <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/>

Genicular Nerve Block. (2023). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from HAYES: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/search?q=%257B%2522text%2522:%2522genicular%2520nerve%2520block%2522,%2522title%2522:null,%2522termsource%2522:%2522searchbar%2522,%2522page%2522:%2522%2522page%2522:0,%2522size%2522:50%252D,%2522type%2522:%2522all%2522,%2522>

Genicular Nerve Blocks for Acute Pain. (2022, May 1). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA): <https://www.asra.com/news-publications/asra-newsletter/newsletter-item/asra-news/2022/05/01/how-i-do-it-genicular-nerve-blocks-for-acute-pain>

Interventional Pain Management 2022-11-06 for commercial/Medicare/non-Anthem Medicaid: CLINICAL APPROPRIATENESS GUIDELINES. (2022, Nov 6). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from AIM Specialty Health: <https://guidelines.aimspecialtyhealth.com/interventional-pain-management-11-06-22-for-commercial-medicare-non-anthem-medicaid/?highlight=%22genicular+nerve%22>

National Coverage Determination (NCD) Induced Lesions of NERVE Tracts 160.1. (Long Standing). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from NCD CMS: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=19&ncdver=1&keyword=nerve&keywordType=all&areald=all&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance&bc=1>

The applications of cryoneurolysis for acute and chronic pain management. (2022, Nov 12). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from Pain Practice Journal: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/papr.13182>

Management of knee osteoarthritis. (2022). Retrieved Jan 11, 2023, from UpToDate: [https://www.uptodate.com/contents/management-of-knee-osteoarthritis?search=Management+of+knee+osteoarthritis&source=search\\_result&selectedTitle=1%7E143&usage\\_type=default&display\\_rank=1](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/management-of-knee-osteoarthritis?search=Management+of+knee+osteoarthritis&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1%7E143&usage_type=default&display_rank=1)

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## Codes

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