



Medica Central Coverage Policy

Policy Name:	Sphenopalatine Ganglion Block for the Treatment of Headache MP9764
Effective Date:	12/01/2025

Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica Central plans. Coverage is subject to requirements in applicable federal or state laws. Please refer to the member's plan document for other specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's plan document, the member's plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare, Medicaid, and other government programs, this policy will apply unless these programs require different coverage.

Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions may call the Provider Service Center. Please use the Quick Reference Guide on the Provider Communications page for the appropriate phone number. <https://mo-central.medica.com/Providers/SSM-employee-health-plan-for-IL-MO-OK-providers>

Medica Central coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care, and treatment.

Coverage Policy

Sphenopalatine ganglion block for the treatment of headache is investigative and unproven and therefore NOT COVERED. There is insufficient reliable evidence in the form of high quality peer-reviewed medical literature to establish the efficacy or effects on health care outcomes.

Description

The sphenopalatine (SPG) ganglion, also known as the pterygopalatine ganglion, nasal ganglion, Meckel's ganglion, and Sluter's ganglion, lies within the pterygopalatine fossa, which is located behind the nose, above the jaw, and below the maxillary nerve. The SPG supplies nerves to the lacrimal gland, pharynx, the mucous membrane and glands of the hard palate, paranasal sinuses, glands of the mucosa of the nasal cavity, and the gingiva and has been identified in association with a variety of pain problems, including headaches. The direct role that the SPG plays in initiating headaches is not fully understood.

Intranasal SPG nerve block for headache involves the threading of a catheter through one of the patient's nostrils to the back of the nose. An anesthetic, such as lidocaine or bupivacaine, is injected while the patient inhales. The procedure is typically repeated in the other nostril.

FDA Approval

Sphenopalatine ganglion block is a procedure and therefore does not require FDA approval; however, any medical devices used as part of the procedure may be subject to FDA regulation.



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The FDA has approved several devices used in sphenopalatine ganglion block, including the SphenoCath® (Dolor Technologies, Scottsdale, AZ), the Allevio SPG Nerve Block Catheter (Medical Components Inc., Schwenksville, PA), and Tx360® Nasal Injector (Tian Medical, LLC, Libertyville, IL, USA).

Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is not applicable. Claims for this service are subject to retrospective review and denial of coverage, as investigative services are not eligible for reimbursement.

Coding Considerations

Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT Codes

- 64505 - Injection, anesthetic agent; sphenopalatine ganglion.

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