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PROVIDER BULLETIN

TOPIC: IV Ketamine

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Based on review of the current literature, all requests for IV Ketamine for treatment of chronic pain and/or CRPS will require individual/special consideration as follows:

- Claimant must have experienced pain for more than 3 months, despite conservative therapy (e.g., exercises, physical modalities and medications); **and**
- Claimant must have failed a trial of physical therapy; **and**
- Claimant must have failed a trial of nerve blocks with local anesthetics and steroids.
- Diagnosis of CRPS must include documentation of the Budapest Criteria (attached).
- All medical notes must be reviewed by a nurse case manager before bills are paid.
- The provider must include credentials defining their qualifications to treat chronic pain and/or CRPS.
- Requests for this treatment may be approved up to a total of 4 infusions.
- Provider must document after each infusion a minimum of 50% pain relief as reflected in the VAS pain scale (1 – 10) and there must be an accompanied documented decrease in the opioids prescribed.
- If pain relief is not documented as described above, future bills for IV Ketamine may be denied.

