

# Medical Coverage Policies

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## Ganglion Impar Block

<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	11/01/2009	<b>LAST UPDATED</b>	06/01/2010
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### Description:

The ganglion impar is a cluster of nerve cells located in front of the sacrum/coccyx joint. A ganglion impar block includes a local anesthetic and steroid injection typically given under fluoroscopic guidance to reduce some of the symptoms of chronic pelvic or rectal pain by blocking nerve impulses. There are inadequate clinical data to support the health benefits of a ganglion impar block.

### Medical Criteria:

Not applicable.

### Policy:

Ganglion impar block for the treatment of pelvic or rectal pain is considered **not medically necessary** as there are inadequate peer reviewed clinical data to support its efficacy.

### Coverage:

Benefits may vary by groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate evidence of coverage, subscriber agreement, or Rite Care contract for the applicable benefits under the category of not medically necessary.

### Coding:

The following unlisted code should be filed for the ganglion impar block procedure:

**64999**

### Publications:

*Provider Update*, August 2009

*Provider Update*, August 2010

### References:

Foye PM, et al. *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*:2005; 84 (3): 218. Coccydynia Successfully Treated with Ganglion Impar Blocks: A Case Series. Retrieved 4/23/09 from <http://www.coccyx.org/medabs/foye.htm>

Gokul R. Toshniwal, et al. *Pain Physician Journal* 2007;10:661-666. Transsacrococcygeal Approach to Ganglion Impar Block for Management Of Chronic Perineal Pain: A Prospective Observational Study <http://www.painphysicianjournal.com/2007/september/2007;10;661-666.pdf>

Michalek, Pavel, et al. *American Society of Anesthesiologists*2005; 1:212. Ganglion Impar Block in Noncancer Perineal Pain: What Drugs, What Strategy? Retrieved 4/23/09 from <http://pdfs.journals.lww.com/anesthesiology/2005/07000/39.pdf>

Lahey Clinic Pain Management Center Patient Information Online: Ganglion Impar Block. Retrieved 4/20/09 from [http://www.lahey.org/Medical/PainMgt/PM\\_SP\\_NB\\_GIB.asp](http://www.lahey.org/Medical/PainMgt/PM_SP_NB_GIB.asp)

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