

Intraoperative Monitoring

(All Lines of Business Except Medicare)

Effective 1/1/2022

New Policy

- + Intraoperative monitoring (IOM) refers to tests that monitor central nervous system function (brain, spinal cord, and nerves) during surgery.
- + IOM may be covered when performed during the following high-risk spine surgeries:
 - Repeat spinal surgery with instrumentation.
 - Surgery for significant spinal stenosis with myelopathy.
 - Surgical instrumentation for correction of scoliosis or significant congenital, traumatic or degenerative spinal deformity.
 - High-risk cervical spine surgery (e.g. vertebral or intraspinal tumor, traumatic spine/spinal cord injury including subluxation/dislocation, deformity correction, or surgery of the spinal cord).
- + IOM of certain nerves (see policy) may be covered when performed during other surgeries, including but not limited to:
 - Head and/or neck surgery.
 - High-risk thyroid surgery.
 - High-risk vascular surgery.
 - Surgery posing a high risk to brain function or an essential nervous system structure.
- + IOM will **not** be covered when performed with certain surgeries, including but not limited to the following:
 - Lower-risk spine surgery (e.g. initial spine surgery, routine decompression, laminotomy).
 - Lower-risk cervical spine surgery (e.g. anterior and/or posterior cervical fusion, discectomy or laminectomy).

Radiofrequency ablation; epidural steroid injections; facet joint injections; spinal cord stimulator placement.

See policy for all relevant policy criteria.