

Clinical Criteria – CPT® 64628, 64629 Thermal destruction of the intraosseous basivertebral nerve (Intrasept® procedure)

Subject: 64628, 64629 Thermal destruction of the intraosseous basivertebral nerve (Intrasept® procedure)	Renewed Effective: 10/1/25
	Review Schedule: Annual

Description:

Procedure Name: Thermal destruction of the intraosseous basivertebral nerve. Also known as the Intrasept® procedure.

Target Area: The procedure targets the basivertebral nerve(s) in the L3-S1 vertebral bodies.

Coverage: CPT Code 64628 covers the ablation of the first two vertebral bodies, including all imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT).

Add-On Code: CPT Code +64629 is used for each additional vertebral body treated beyond the initial two, *requiring use with 64628*.

Criteria for Approval:

- **Chronic Low Back Pain:**
The patient must have chronic low back pain lasting for at least six months.
- **Failed Conservative Management:**
The patient must have failed to respond to at least six months of non-surgical treatments.
- **Modic Changes on MRI:**
The patient's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) must show Modic changes (Type 1 or Type 2) in at least one vertebral endplate from L3 to S1.
 - **Modic Type 1 (MC1):** Characterized by inflammation, edema, fibrovascular tissue, and hypointense (dark) signals.
 - **Modic Type 2 (MC2):** Marked by a replacement of normal bone marrow with fatty marrow, showing hyperintense (bright) signals on MRI.
- **Absence of Other Pathology:**
There must be no other identifiable source for the pain, such as a fracture, tumor, infection, or significant spinal deformity, that would explain the patient's symptoms.
- **Appropriate patient selection:** The patient's daily living activities must be limited by persistent low back pain, and other potential sources of pain, such as disc herniation or spinal stenosis, must be ruled out.
- **Skeletally mature:** The procedure is intended for skeletally mature patients, typically over 18 years of age.

Contraindications

The procedure is not appropriate for all patients. Contraindications include:

- Severe cardiac or pulmonary conditions

- Presence of active implantable pulse generators, like pacemakers
- An active infection, either systemic or localized to the treatment area
- Pregnancy
- Skeletal immaturity (typically under 18 years old)
- Previous BVN ablation at the targeted vertebral level