



**2009**

## **EPIDURAL INJECTION CRITERIA (MEDICARE)**

Epidural injection of corticosteroid preparations (e.g., Depo-Medrol), with or without added anesthetic agents, are considered medically necessary in the outpatient setting for management of back or cervical pain when ALL of the following are met:

### Initial 3 Injections:

- Intraspinous tumor or other space-occupying lesion, or non-spinal origin for pain, has been ruled out as the cause of pain; **AND**
- Member has failed to improve after two or more weeks of conservative measures (e.g., rest, systemic analgesics and / or physical therapy)

### Repeat Injections:

- Epidural injections beyond the first set of three injections are provided as part of a comprehensive pain management program, which includes physical therapy, patient education, psychosocial support, and oral medications where appropriate.