



New York Society of Interventional Pain Physicians

MINUTES – ADVOCACY CONSORTIUM

7/15/24

1. Dr. Nia will discuss an unrestricted grant with Merit Medical (Kyphoplasty)
Dr. Tiso will re-approach Saluda for grant opportunities
2. NGS (Dr. Duerden – Medical Director) has agreed to a follow up meeting to discuss integrated vs. non-integrated PNS systems and where the Curonix system fits in. I will inform members of meeting details so that they may participate if desired.
3. BCBS Excellus. After reviewing the evidence, the medical director (Dr. Randolph Snow) offered his opinion that the Intracept procedure should be covered at an April meeting. He also stated that it would ultimately be up to Evicore (3rd party administrator). Subsequently Evicore stated that they still consider the procedure experimental and investigational. BCBS then told us it would remain uncovered because of Evicore decision. I have spoken to Dr. Kalia about this since this is NOT the way insurance company decisions are supposed to be made. Will draft letter to DFS (Dept Financial Services) reporting this behavior. Intracept currently covered by 2 LCDs (Palmetto, Noridian), Anthem BCBS (now Elevance), Cigna, Humana, DOL, and VA Community Care.
4. Fidelis: Continues to deny epidurals >12 months although not as often. Also routinely denying procedures based on lack of documentation despite bulleted statements summarizing conservative care in EMR. We are pondering next steps.
5. PVA/Aetna: Working with Dr. Steve Aydin for absurd denials for this procedure from Aetna. Have forwarded denials to Med Director and awaiting response/meeting.

--closed--