

## **FSIPP**

Message from the President:

REGARDING: Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting 6/23/07  
LCD for Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections

### **GOOD NEWS!**

First Coast Service Options (FCSO) was very receptive to our proposed changes to the LCD for paravertebral facet injections. It appears their primary concern is over utilization. FCSO data banks indicate that this over utilization is generated by family practitioners, internists, and general practitioners, who are performing blind glorified TPI's and coding them as facet blocks (not that we didn't already know that). It was generally agreed by all specialties present at the CAC meeting, including internal and family medicine, that fluoroscopy is necessary for this procedure. The recommendation that fluoroscopy (CPT 76003) be required for payment of paravertebral facet injections was well received by FSCO.

The number of levels treated per session is still being considered. We have strongly suggested no less than four levels of per treatment session, if clinically indicated. Treatment interval is still being considered as well. We have suggested treatment intervals of four months (120 days) with two sessions per treatment interval. Please see attached final FSIPP utilization guidelines submission. Accordingly, this issue will be reconsidered and a second LCD session will be presented at a future time. The FSCO Medical Director has assured me that they will continue our dialogue through this process.

Through the persistent and cohesive efforts of FSIPP, Florida Interventional Pain Physicians, have a relevant voice in the Medicare CAC process. Based on current CAC feedback, it appears that our organization has successfully contributed to the reconsideration of this very important LCD thus ensuring continued access to appropriate safe pain management for our patients.

Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently on this issue. Thanks especially to Deborah Tracy, MD who serves as our alternate CAC representative. Special thanks to Dr. Zipper Dr. Melvin and Dr. Latif for their time and energy. Their input was critical to this process. And finally, thanks to the physicians who took time out of their day to attend the open public comment session in Jacksonville on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Those physicians included Dr. Charles Friedman, Dr. Jeffrey Zipper, Dr. Eugene Melvin, Dr. Stephen Grable.