

<b>Subject: MRI angiography spinal canal without and with contrast, 72159</b>		<b>Original Effective Date:</b> 12/13/17
<b>Policy Number: MCR: 622</b>	<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	
<b>Review Date: 12/13/17, 12/13/18</b>		

**DISCLAIMER**

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE/SERVICE/PHARMACEUTICAL**

Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) is a non-X-ray (no ionizing radiation) imaging scan that uses a strong magnetic field and radiofrequency waves to produce detailed images of vascular structures. MRA may be performed either without or with the injection of (gadolinium) contrast material into a vein. MRA images are electronically processed to remove surrounding non-vascular anatomy, so that only the arteries or veins of interest are displayed. These vascular images can be reconstructed and rotated in different planes. MRA can sometimes replace or can be used to supplement conventional invasive catheter angiography.

**APPROVAL SUPPORT**

- Evaluation of known or suspected spinal arteriovenous malformation (AVM) or fistula
- Evaluation of suspected spinal cord infarction or ischemia

**ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION**

The above medical necessity recommendations are used to determine the best diagnostic study based on a patient's specific clinical circumstances. The recommendations were developed using evidence based studies and current accepted clinical practices. Medical necessity will be determined using a combination of these recommendations as well as the patient's individual clinical or social circumstances.

- Tests that will not change treatment plans should not be recommended.
- Same or similar tests recently completed need a specific reason for repeat imaging.

**REFERENCES USED FOR DETERMINATIONS**

1. Saraf-Lavi, E., Bowen, B.C., Quencer, R.M., Sklar, E.M., Holz, A., Latchaw, R.E., . . . Wakhloo, R. (2002). Detection of spinal dural arteriovenous fistulae with MR imaging and contrast-enhanced MR angiography: sensitivity, specificity, and prediction of vertebral level. American Journal of Neuroradiology, 23(5), 858-867. Retrieved from <http://www.ajnr.org/content/23/5/858.long>.
2. Bowen BC, Fraser K, Kochan JP, et al, Spinal dural arteriovenous fistulas: evaluation with MR angiography, AJNR, 1995;16:2029-2043.
3. Backes WH and Nijenhuis RJ, Advances in spinal cord MR angiography, AJM+NR, 2008; 29:619-631.
4. Saraf-Lavi E, Bowen BC, Quencer RM, et al. Detection of spinal dural arteriovenous fistulae with MR imaging and contrast-enhanced MR angiography: Sensitivity, specificity, and prediction of vertebral level. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2002; 23(5):858-867.
5. Mull M, Nijenhuis RJ, Backes WH, et al. Value and limitations of contrast-enhanced MR angiography in spinal arteriovenous malformations and dural arteriovenous fistulas. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2007; 28(7):1249-1258.

**CODING INFORMATION:** THE CODES LISTED IN THIS POLICY ARE FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. LISTING OF A SERVICE OR DEVICE CODE IN THIS POLICY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE SERVICE DESCRIBED BY THIS CODE IS COVERED OR NON-COVERED. COVERAGE IS DETERMINED BY THE BENEFIT DOCUMENT. THIS LIST OF CODES MAY NOT BE ALL INCLUSIVE.

	<b>Description</b>
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