

Blue Shield Report

A Newsletter for
Professional Providers and
their Staff Members

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OUR WEB ADDRESS:
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Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) **August 3, 2006**

Results from August 2006 MAC are outlined on the following page. More detailed information is available on our Web site under Providers, Publications, Medical Review or the link below:
http://www.bcbsks.com/providers/publications/professional/med_review/index.htm.

Provider offices that do not have Internet access may obtain copies of our Web documents by calling the professional relations hotline.

Anesthesiology Liaison (May 9, 2006)

Epidural Lysis of Adhesions is considered experimental/investigational and has been added to the medical policy on Minimally Invasive Procedures for Spine Pain.

Moderate Sedation/Monitored Anesthesia

The committee reviewed changes for 2007 to BCBSKS Policy Memo No. 12, Anesthesia. The policy memo had been revised to add definitions of monitored anesthesia and moderate (conscious) sedation.

BCBSKS staff uses the following examples of monitored anesthesia and moderate sedation to educate providers on the documentation for medical need and to differentiate the indications.

Monitored anesthesia services are indicated:

- When the patient has a severe cardiopulmonary condition or other medical condition that significantly increases the risk of adverse results if not managed by an anesthesia provider capable of initiating general anesthesia and other supportive services, or
- If a procedure is expected to progress to a deep or complicated procedure that would require general anesthesia.

Examples of other medical conditions that significantly increase the risk of adverse results are:

- Sleep apnea
- Morbid obesity

Moderate sedation is indicated for patients:

- In good general medical health with adequate ventilatory reserve and who
 - Have cognitive impairments making them unable to cooperate, or
 - Are emotionally challenged and cannot cooperate, or
 - Have motor dysfunction (uncontrolled gagging, restless leg syndrome, etc.).

Behavioral Health Liaison (June 6, 2006)

Deep Brain Stimulation for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is considered experimental/investigational.

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is considered experimental/investigational.

Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Depression is considered experimental/investigational.

Optometric Liaison (May 25, 2006)

The meeting consisted of general discussion and informational items only. No policy decisions were made.