

CHECKLIST FOR SELECTIVE NERVE ROOT BLOCKS (SNRB)

This checklist is a guide for noting specific symptoms when selective nerve root blocks (SNRBs) are considered as a treatment option. It is intended to assist those entering prior authorization requests. Use of this checklist is optional. It is being offered as a one-time guide and will not be further updated or maintained as it does NOT replace medical documentation nor the medical policy for SNRB. Refer to the Dean Health Plan Medical Management web page at deancare.com/providers/medical-management for current medical policies.

Please select if the patient has any of the following:

Diagnostic SNRB for identifying the etiology of pain **with symptoms suggestive of chronic radicular pain** as indicated by:

- Physical signs and symptoms differ from those found on imaging studies
- Clinical evidence of multi-level nerve root pathology
- Presentation is suggestive for both nerve root and peripheral nerve or joint disease involvement
- Clinical findings are consistent with radiculopathy in a dermatomal distribution, but the imaging studies do not corroborate the findings (positive straight leg test)
- Member has had previous spinal surgery
- For the purposes of surgical planning

Therapeutic SNRB in treatment of **chronic radicular pain** when **noninvasive measures have failed** (such as physical therapy and medication), as indicated by:

- At least two (2) weeks since the previous SNRB to permit a reasonable time period to evaluate the effectiveness
- No more than three (3) SNRB's per level every 6 months