Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To: Members of Congress

Re: Multiple issues related to diminution or elimination of access to interventional pain management procedures, specifically epidural interventions

Dear Members of Congress:

I am writing to urge you to improve access to Medicare and other pain management services, by reversing these unimaginable policies which are being applied throughout all other insurers, including Medicaid.

Because I am a chronic pain patient, interventional pain management services are crucial to maintain my activity status. The new policies already in effect for facet joint interventions and the draft form for epidural injections for pain management procedures, create unnecessary expense with multiple deductibles, copays, difficulties with travel arrangements, multiple COVID-19 tests essentially keeping us away from receiving appropriate treatments. This may also affect access to opioid medication as they have already been significantly curtailed because of the opioid epidemic. For others, illicit sources may be the only option to cope with pain.

Please contact Tamara Syrek Jensen, Director of the Coverage Analysis Group at CMS and our local Medical Coverage Policy group at NGS and request them to reverse the policies in relation to the following issues:

1. Removing the restrictions of providing multiple procedures in separate regions on the same day.

2. Removing the restriction of coverage policies for epidural injections.

3. Preserving percutaneous adhesiolysis within the realm of LCD without eliminating the coverage as it has been done in some jurisdictions.

For more information, fact sheets, evidence-based research, and documentation, please visit the ASIPP Advocacy page <https://asipp.org/proposed-lcd-on-epidural-procedures-for-pain-management> and/or contact the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP). Correspondence can be sent directly ASIPP Chairman of the Board and CEO, Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD at drm@asipp.org or 270-554-8373, ext. 4101 or ASIPP President, Amol Soin, MD at drsoin@gmail.com

Sincerely,

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Signature

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City, State, and **ZIP Code**

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**E-mail Address**