SAMPLE LETTER FOR PATIENTS IN OHIO UNDER CGS

Date

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

503 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Portman

446 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Turner

2082 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

RE: Multiple problems with Medicare coverage policies, curtailing access interventional pain management services

Dear Senators McConnell, Paul, and Representative Comer:

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.

As a chronic pain patient, these 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 CGS 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.

Tamara Syrek Jensen, JD

Director, Coverage and Analysis Group

Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

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For more information, fact sheets, evidence-based research, and documentation, please 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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