

A Pain Department's Response to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Requirements of Sacroiliac and Facet Joint Procedure performance

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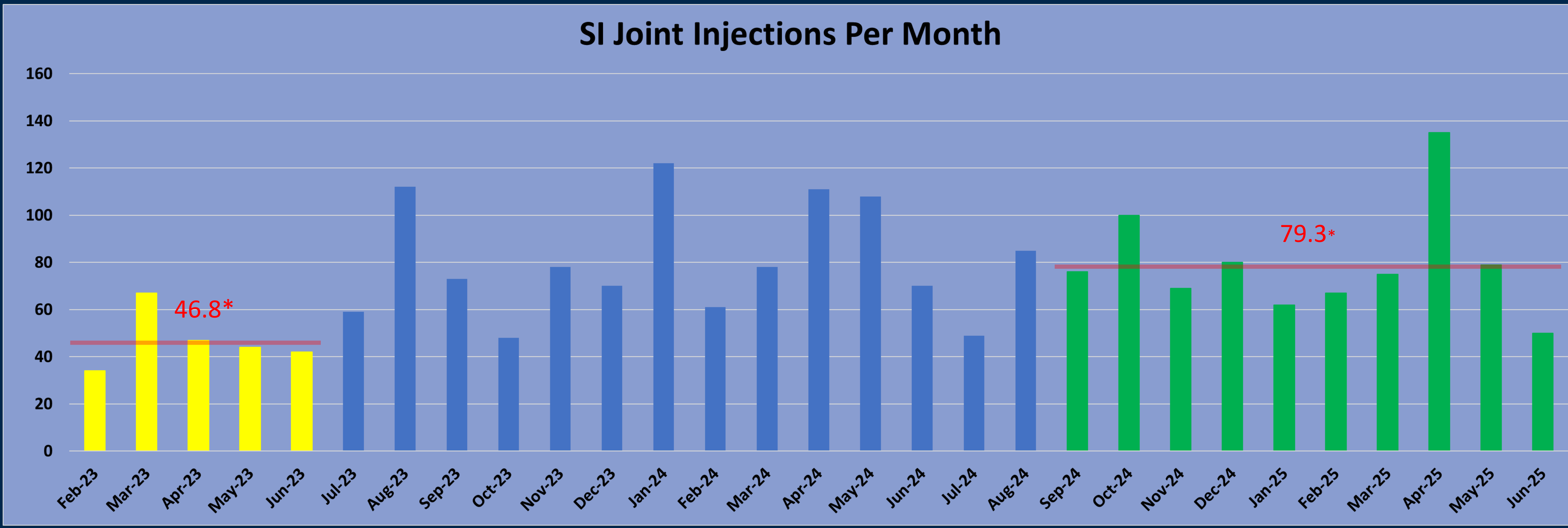
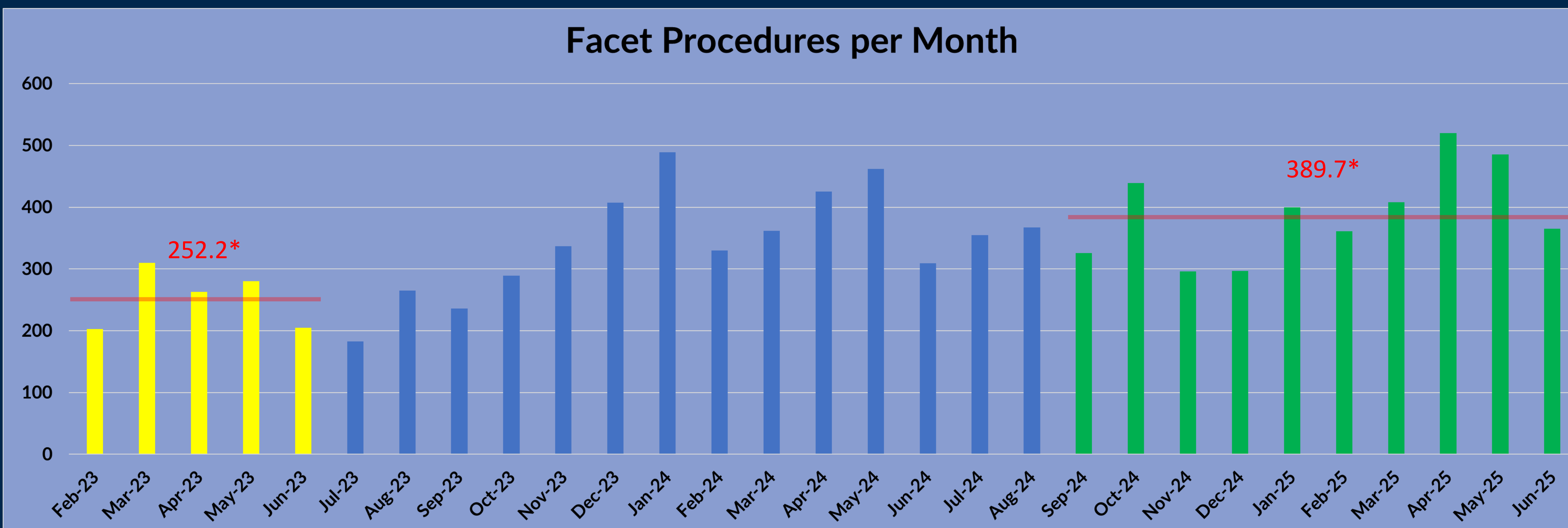
INTRODUCTION

- Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Criteria from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) delineate patient selection for interventional spine procedures
- Recent LCD’s were released for SI injections (02/2023) and facet procedures (05/2024)
- Our department developed clinical guidance to improve providers understanding of these LCDs and streamline documentation in the hopes of improving patient selection and access
- We hypothesize our guidance improved patient selection and increased appropriate procedural performance

METHODS

- Retrospective chart review of procedures performed monthly
- Two key time periods:
 - Feb-June 2023, before clinical guidance training (yellow)
 - Sept 2024-June 2025, after clinical guidance training (green)
- Comparisons between the two time periods were made using Mann-Whitney U testing

Standardized clinical guidance training in response to CMS Local Coverage Determination can improve access to interventional pain treatments.



METHODS

- Clinical guidance training was developed by faculty experts, and disseminated over the course of 2-3 months
- Training consisted of presentations during faculty meetings, discussions with relevant stakeholders, and emails delineating patient selection factors
- Printed and digital materials were disseminated outlining departmental workflows and LCD criteria

RESULTS

- 2151 SI joint injections and 10386 Facet procedures were performed from Feb 2023 to June 2025 amongst 18 providers
- Monthly SI injections increased by 32.5 (69.4%) and monthly Facet procedures increased by 139.5 (53.3%) from key time-period one to key time-period two
- The increase in average monthly procedures was significant for SI injections (U=2.5, p< 0.01) and for facet procedures (U=4, p<0.01)

DISCUSSION

- Standardized clinical guidance can improve patient selection, procedural access, and alignment with LCDs
- Further research is being completed to compare these results with a regional academic working group without standardized clinical guidance
- Additional research is being completed to evaluate changes in patient outcomes following LCD publication