

2018 Quick Reference Guide – Radio Frequency Ablation Intradiscal Joint Reimbursement 2018

Coding and Payment Guide for Medicare Reimbursement: The following are the 2018 Medicare coding and national payment rates for Radio Frequency Ablation (Intradiscal Joint) procedures performed in an ambulatory surgical center, physician office, or outpatient hospital.

Therapeutic Procedures

| CPT ^{®1} | Description | Physician | | | Ambulatory Surgery Center | | Outpatient Hospital | | |
|-------------------|---|--|--|------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | National Average Payment ² (Non-Facility) | National Average Payment ² (Facility) | Global Period | Status Indicator ³ | ASC National Average Payment ² | Status Indicator ⁴ | APC Code ⁵ | OPPS National Average Payment ² |
| 22526 | Percutaneous intradiscal electrothermal annuloplasty, unilateral or bilateral including fluoroscopic guidance, single level | \$2,397 | \$351 | 10 | Not Covered | | Not Covered | | |
| (+22527 | Percutaneous intradiscal electrothermal annuloplasty, unilateral or bilateral including fluoroscopic guidance, 1 or more additional levels. (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure). | \$2,025 | \$166 | ZZZ ⁶ | Not Covered | | Not Covered | | |
| 62287 | Decompression procedure, percutaneous, of nucleus pulposus of intervertebral disc, any method utilizing needle based technique to remove disc material under fluoroscopic imaging or other form of indirect visualization, with discography and/or epidural injection(s) at the treated level(s), when performed, single or multiple levels, lumbar | NA | \$595 | 90 | A2 | \$2,033 | J1 | 5432 | \$4,627 |
| 22899 | Unlisted procedure, spine | Carrier Priced | | | Not Covered | | T | 5111 | \$215 |
| 64999 | Unlisted procedure, nervous system | Carrier Priced | | | Carrier Priced | | T | 5441 | \$245 |

Diagnostic Procedures

Diagnostic Procedures below are often required prior to coverage for the therapeutic procedures above. The provider is responsible for verifying payer policy as to the appropriate code used for each procedure.

| CPT ¹ | Description |
|------------------|--|
| 62290 | Injection procedure for discography, each level; lumbar |
| 62291 | Injection procedure for discography, each level; cervical or thoracic |
| 72285 | Discography, cervical or thoracic, radiological supervision and interpretation |
| 72285-26 | |
| 72295 | Discography, lumbar, radiological supervision and interpretation |
| 72295-26 | |

Medicare Local Coverage Determinations⁷

Please check with your local contractor. In the absence of an LCD, Medicare contractors will follow the NCD.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Palmetto GBA (AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV) | LCD #L36471 |
| Nordian JE (CA, NV, HI) | LCD #L34993 |
| Nordian JF (AK, AZ, ID, MT, WY, ND, OR, SD, UT, and WA) | LCD #L34995 |
| NGS (CT,NY, IL, MN, WI) | LCD #L35936 |
| WPS (MI, IN, IA, KS, NE, MO, MN) | LCD #L35996 |
| CGS (KY, OH) | LCD #L34832 |
| First Coast (FL, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) | LCD #L33814 |

To locate the LCDs listed above: Go to: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx> ENTER LCD # in Document ID

(+) Add on code. Only reimbursed in combination with the appropriate primary code

*Payer coverage limitations exist for facet joint denervation/destruction in the thoracic spine. Check with payer prior to performing procedure.

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Sequestration Disclaimer: Rates referenced in these guides do not reflect Sequestration; automatic reductions in federal spending that will result in a 2% across-the-board reduction to ALL Medicare rates as of January 1, 2018. (Budget Control Act of 2011)

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2. "National Average Payment" is the amount Medicare determines to be the maximum allowance for any Medicare covered procedure. Actual payment will vary based on the maximum allowance less any applicable deductibles, co-insurance etc.
3. AASC Status indicators: A2: Surgical procedure on ASC list in CY 2007; payment based on OPPS relative payment weight. N1: Packaged service/item; no separate payment made. P3: Office-based surgical procedure added to ASC list in CY 2008 or later with MPFS nonfacility PE RVUs; payment based on MPFS nonfacility PE RVUs.
4. Outpatient Status Indicators: N: Items and Services Packaged into APC Rates. Payment is packaged into payment for other services. Therefore, there is no separate APC payment. T: Procedure or Service, Multiple Procedure Reduction applies
J1: Hospital Part B services paid through a comprehensive APC.
5. APC Codes: 5432: Level 2 Nerve Procedures, 5111: Level 1 Musculoskeletal Procedures, 5441: Level 1 Nerve Injections
6. "ZZZ" are surgical codes, they are add-on codes that you must bill with another service. There is no post-operative work included in the MPFS payment
7. List of local Medicare carriers is not an exhaustive list. LCD Link . Please go to the appropriate Medicare contractor specific website to find the most updated state coverage jurisdiction.

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