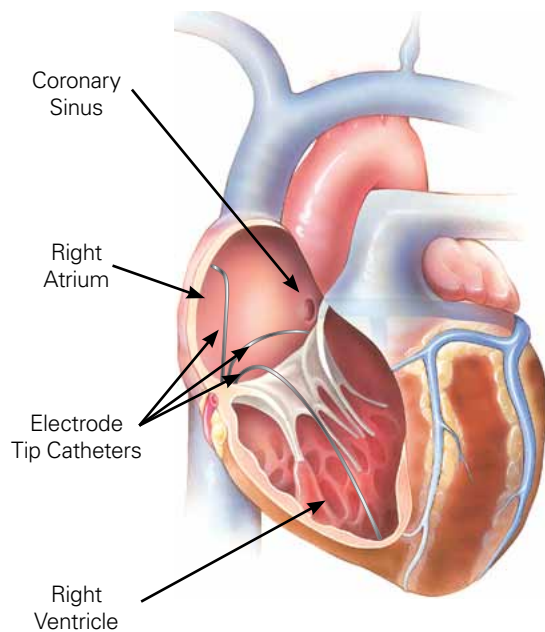


GuidePoint is simplifying reimbursement.

Updated: June 2009

Intracardiac Catheter Ablation Coding Overview



Intracardiac catheter ablation is a procedure in which electrode tip catheters are placed in the heart and energy is delivered through the catheter to destroy cardiac tissue that is either causing an arrhythmia or allowing an arrhythmia to perpetuate.

The ablation catheter is placed adjacent to the cardiac tissue responsible for the arrhythmia, and the tissue is destroyed using radiofrequency electrical energy, microwave, or extreme cold temperatures (cryoablation). The ablation creates a block through which the electrical impulses can no longer cross and is intended to restore the normal electrical pathways of the heart, allowing it to beat normally again. Arrhythmias arising in the:

- Right atrium or right ventricle are ablated with catheters placed transvenously in the appropriate cardiac chamber
- Left atrium can be ablated using a catheter placed via a retrograde aortic approach (through the aorta, across the aortic valve, and through the mitral valve) or, more commonly, via a transseptal approach¹ (across the intra-atrial septum)

A step-by-step description of a typical catheter ablation

1. An introducer sheath is placed in the femoral vein.
2. Under fluoroscopic guidance, multiple electrode catheters are advanced through the sheath into the heart.
3. The catheters are attached to a recording device allowing depiction of the intracardiac electrograms obtained from the catheter tip.
4. Tachycardia is initiated, and the origin of the tachycardia is confirmed and localized.
5. The ablation catheter tip is moved to the arrhythmogenic focus or pathway guided by the electrical recordings and fluoroscopy.
6. Radiofrequency electrical energy, microwave energy or cryoablation is applied to the cardiac tissue, ablating the focus or pathway.
7. Post-ablation testing is performed to verify that the tachycardia cannot be induced.
8. The catheters and sheaths are withdrawn.

Note: This document is for reference purposes only and does not replace physicians' medical documentation.

Commonly Billed Intracardiac Catheter Ablation Procedures

Key

- + Add-on code.
- Moderate sedation (For these procedures, moderate [conscious] sedation is included and cannot be billed separately when provided by the same physician. See the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology 2009 for specific guidelines).

AV Node Ablation with Comprehensive EP Study, Mapping and Dual-chamber Pacemaker Implant

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.26 Catheter based invasive electrophysiologic testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrophysiologic studies [EPS] • Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device interrogation only without arrhythmia induction (bedside check) (89.45 – 89.49) • His bundle recording (37.29) • Non-invasive programmed electrical stimulation (NIPS) (37.20) • That as part of intraoperative testing — omit code <p>37.27 Cardiac Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocardiogram (89.52) • His bundle recording (37.29) <p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter • Modified maze procedure, endovascular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93620 Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording • +93609 Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • 93650 Intracardiac catheter ablation of atrioventricular node function, atrioventricular conduction for creation of complete heart block, with or without temporary pacemaker placement • 33208 Insertion or replacement of permanent pacemaker with transvenous electrodes; atrial and ventricular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93620–26** Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording • +93609–26** Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • 93650 Intracardiac catheter ablation of atrioventricular node function, atrioventricular conduction for creation of complete heart block, with or without temporary pacemaker placement • 33208–51** Insertion or replacement of permanent pacemaker with transvenous electrodes; atrial and ventricular

AV Node Ablation with Comprehensive EP Study, Mapping and Dual-chamber Pacemaker Implant (continued)

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.83 Initial insertion of dual-chamber device</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atrial ventricular sequential device <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of existing pacemaker device (37.85-37.87) <p>37.72 Initial insertion of transvenous leads (electrodes) into atrium and ventricle</p> <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insertion of temporary transvenous pacemaker system (37.78) • Replacement of atrial and/or ventricular lead(s) (37.76) <p>87.49 Other chest X-ray</p> <p>X-ray of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronchus NOS • Diaphragm NOS • Heart NOS • Mediastinum NOS • Lung NOS • Trachea NOS 		<p>71090-26</p> <p>Insertion pacemaker, fluoroscopy and radiography, radiological supervision and interpretation</p>

Ablation for AVNRT (SVT Ablation) and Mapping

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter • Modified maze procedure, endovascular <p>37.27 Cardiac Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocardiogram (89.52) • His bundle recording (37.29) 	<p>• 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination</p> <p>• +93609 Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</p>	<p>• 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination</p> <p>• +93609–26** Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</p>

Accessory Pathway Ablation with Mapping

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter • Modified maze procedure, endovascular <p>37.27 Cardiac Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocardiogram (89.52) • His bundle recording (37.29) 	<p>• 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination</p> <p>• +93609 Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</p>	<p>• 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination</p> <p>• +93609–26** Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</p>

+ Add-on code • Moderate sedation

Atrial Flutter Ablation with Comprehensive EP Study, LA pacing and recording and 3-D mapping

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.26 Catheter based invasive electrophysiologic testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrophysiologic studies [EPS] • Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device interrogation only without arrhythmia induction (bedside check) (89.45 – 89.49) • His bundle recording (37.29) • Non-invasive programmed electrical stimulation (NIPS) (37.20) • That as part of intraoperative testing — omit code <p>37.27 Cardiac Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocardiogram (89.52) • His bundle recording (37.29) <p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter • Modified maze procedure, endovascular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93620 Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording • +93621 Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • +93613 Intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93620–26** Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording • +93621–26** Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • +93613 Intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination

+ Add-on code • Moderate sedation

Atrial Fibrillation Ablation with Comprehensive EP Study, mapping and Intracardiac Echocardiography (ICE), transeptal approach

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.26 Catheter based invasive electrophysiologic testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrophysiologic studies [EPS] Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Device interrogation only without arrhythmia induction (bedside check) (89.45 – 89.49) His bundle recording (37.29) Non-invasive programmed electrical stimulation (NIPS) (37.20) That as part of intraoperative testing — omit code <p>37.27 Cardiac Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code also any concomitant procedure <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrocardiogram (89.52) His bundle recording (37.29) <p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter Modified maze procedure, endovascular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 93619 Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording, including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, without induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia ● +93609 Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) +93662 Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) ● 93651 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 93619–26** Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording, including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, without induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia ● +93609–26** Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) +93662–26** Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) ● 93651–22 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination

Note: Use of modifier 22 requires submission of procedure notes detailing additional work associated with the transeptal approach and the complexity of the ablative procedure. Provider may wish to confirm payer requirements before claim submission. If diagnostic testing is done preceding the ablation (such as: 93609, 93613, 93620, or 93621) or after the procedure (such as 93623) these services are separately reportable. Post-ablation studies must be performed for diagnostic, not strictly for confirmatory, purposes.

+ Add-on code ● Moderate sedation

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See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 8.

VT Ablation with mapping and Intracardiac Echocardiograph (ICE)

Hospital Inpatient ICD-9-CM Codes ¹	Hospital Outpatient* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}	Physician* CPT® Codes ^{2,3}
<p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter • Modified maze procedure, endovascular <p>37.28 Intracardiac echocardiography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echocardiography of heart chambers • ICE • Code also any synchronous Doppler flow mapping (88.72) <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intravascular imaging of coronary vessels (intravascular ultrasound) (IVUS) (00.24) <p>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter • Modified maze procedure, endovascular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93652 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of ventricular tachycardia • +93609 Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • +93662 Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93652-22 Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of ventricular tachycardia • +93609-26** Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) • +93662-26** Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

+ Add-on code • Moderate sedation

¹ Ingenix. Updatable 2009 ICD-9-CM Expert for Hospitals, Volumes 1, 2 and 3. 6th Revision. Salt Lake City, UT: 2008

² Heart Rhythm Society. CPT Coding Guide for Heart Rhythm Procedures and Services, 2008. Washington D.C.: 2008.

³ American Medical Association. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2009. Professional Edition. Chicago, IL: 2008. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is copyright 2008 American Medical Association (AMA). All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values, or related listings are included in CPT. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

* As of January 1, 2005, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires hospitals to report all device category codes (C-codes) on Medicare outpatient claims when medical devices are used in conjunction with procedure(s) billed. If C-codes are not identified on submitted Medicare outpatient claims, the claim(s) will be returned to the hospital for correction. Find C-codes for CRM devices at <http://www.bostonscientific.com/crm/reimbursement>. Also find C-codes for CRM devices and related accessories (e.g., introducers, catheters, sheaths) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/A03076.pdf> and http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalOutpatientPPS/04_passthrough_payment.asp.

** Modifiers 26 (professional component) and 51 (multiple procedures) are for physician billing only. See the *AMA Current Procedural Terminology 2009* for complete descriptions. Historically, third-party payers have used –51 modifier in various ways that may affect payment. Always verify appropriate usage with payers.

Note: *The CPT coding scenarios in this document are from the Heart Rhythm Society's (HRS) CPT coding guide. The ICD-9-CM scenarios are not from the HRS coding guide. However, they were formulated using 2009 ICD-9-CM terminology and following Medicare coding guidelines.*

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