PRINCIPLES OF INJECTION CODING

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ELEMENTS/COMPONENTS OF INJECTION CODING

COMPONENTS:
- Determine need for injection (E/M)
- Injection Itself (Injection CPT code)
- Injection Therapeutic Supply (HCPCS)
“GLOBAL SERVICES”

- Can *not* bill for anesthesia for surgery
- Can *not* bill for post-operative nerve blocks
- Can *not* bill for intra-operative “Trigger point” injections
- If patient is coming to office *expecting* injection, NO E/M billable
  - e.g. Plantar fasciitis, Neuroma
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20550</td>
<td>Tendon Sheath or Ligament; Plantar fascia</td>
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<tr>
<td>20551</td>
<td>Tendon Origin or Insertion</td>
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<tr>
<td>20600</td>
<td>Inject/Aspirate “Small” Joint</td>
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<tr>
<td>20605</td>
<td>Inject/Aspirate “Intermediate” Joint (midfoot)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20612</td>
<td>Inject/Aspirate Ganglion Cyst(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>64450</td>
<td>Inject Peripheral Nerve (non-interdigital)</td>
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<tr>
<td>64455</td>
<td>Inject interdigital Neuroma</td>
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<tr>
<td>64999</td>
<td>Destruction of Interdigital Nerve (via injection, etc.)</td>
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</tbody>
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requires at least 50% alcohol solution (64640 does *not* seem to be the appropriate CPT code for sclerosing injections; at least at this time) (Fanucci et al: Eur Radiol 14:514-518; 2004)
There ARE CPT codes that provide for additional reimbursement for use of fluoroscopy, etc. utilized to assist in performing injections.

The vast majority of injections in the foot and ankle do not require imaging guidance.

Therefore, not medically necessary.
INJECTION OF PERIPHERAL NERVES

- So... it would appear that...

- Any diagnostic and/or therapeutic injection of any peripheral nerve (other than of common plantar nerve / "interdigital neuroma") can appropriately be billed via CPT 64450, plus applicable therapeutic supply
The local anesthetic components of the injection are not separately billable

ONLY therapeutic supply can be billed separately (antiinflammatory, etc.)
INJECTION SUPPLY

- Injected supply billed with HCPCS “J” codes
- Do NOT bill for the local anesthetic (lidocaine, etc.)
- J1020-30 methylprednisolone acetate (Depo-Medrol)
- J1094 dexamethasone acetate (Decadron LA)
- J1100 dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- J3301-3 triamcinolone (Kenalog)
- Code based upon total mg applied on date of service; even if applied over multiple sites
- Use applicable modifiers to reflect separate sites
  - LT, RT, -59 Modifier