

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

INJECTION CODES

20550	Tendon Sheath or Ligament; Plantar fascia
20551	Tendon Origin or Insertion
20600	Inject/Aspirate “Small” Joint
20605	Inject/Aspirate “Intermediate” Joint (midfoot)
20612	Inject/Aspirate Ganglion Cyst(s)
64450	Inject Peripheral Nerve (non-interdigital)
64455	Inject interdigital Neuroma
64999	Destruction of Interdigital Nerve (via injection, etc.) requires at least 50% alcohol solution (64640 does <i>not</i> seem to be the appropriate CPT code for sclerosing injections; at least at this time) (Fanucci et al: Eur Radiol 14:514-518; 2004)

IMAGING GUIDANCE

- There ARE CPT codes that provide for additional reimbursement for use of flouroscopy, 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

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