Coding Endoscopic Sinus Surgery

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Practical Tools for Seminar Learning
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Faculty

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**Objectives**

- Review the sinuses anatomy
- Discern medical necessity for various sinus procedures
- Identify endoscopic sinus procedures
- Review the CPT® coding and modifier guidelines

**Anatomy of the Facial Sinuses**

- Nasal septum
- Ethmoid (right and left)
- Maxillary sinus (right and left)
- Turbinates (concha)
  - Superior
  - Middle
  - Inferior
Upper Respiratory System

Nasal cavities

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Perinasal Sinuses

Polling Question #1

For what type of facility do you code Endoscopic Sinus Surgeries?

*1 Physician practice
*2 Ambulatory surgery center
*3 Specialty center
*4 Hospital
*5 Other
Medical Necessity

- Nasal polyps or mucoceles
- Chronic sinusitis
- Tumors of the nasal and sinus cavities
- Recurrent sinus infections or complications of sinusitis

Nasal Polyps

[Diagram showing nasal anatomy with labels for nasal septum, nasal conchae (turbinates), ostium (opening), and cyst or polyp]
Medical Necessity

- Cerebrospinal fluid leaks
- Juvenile Angiofibroma
- Nasolacrimal duct obstruction
- Choanal atresia
- Chronic sinus headaches

Typically, patients should have used medical therapies first, with no significant signs of improvement, before sinus surgery is performed.
Polling Question #2

In your job, what aspect of this process do you code?

*1 Diagnosis only
*2 Procedure only (patient referred with existing diagnosis)
*3 Both diagnosis and procedure

The Procedure

- An endoscope is an instrument made up of a camera mounted on a flexible tube.
- This can be inserted into small anatomical sites, such as the nose and mouth to visualize the internal aspects of the body.
The Procedure

- Small attachments can
  - take biopsies of suspicious tissues through the endoscope
  - perform excisions
  - or other needed function
The Procedure

- Endoscopic Sinus Surgery can be performed under
  - Local anesthesia
  - or-
  - General anesthesia

- Sometimes sinus surgery may require simultaneous repair of the nasal septum
- The use of packing will depend on the extent of surgery and physician preference
Codes Based On CPT® 2008

- 31231 - 31294
- Nasal/ Sinus Endoscopy
- Unilateral procedures
  (unless specifically noted in code description)
Coding Diagnostics

Diagnostic 
Nasal Endoscopic 
Procedures

Diagnostic Evaluation

• 31231 - 31235
• Nasal/ sinus endoscopy for the inspection of:
  • Interior nasal cavity
  • Middle and superior meatus
  • Turbinates
  • Spheno-ethmoid recess
### Diagnostic Evaluation

- All diagnostic evaluations include all of these areas
- Do NOT code each area separately!

### 31231 Nasal endoscopy, diagnostic, unilateral or bilateral *(separate procedure)*

### 31233 Nasal/ sinus endoscopy, diagnostic with maxillary sinusoscopy *(via inferior meatus or canine fossa puncture)*

### 31235 Nasal/ sinus endoscopy, diagnostic with sphenoid sinusoscopy *(via puncture of sphenoidal face or cannulation of ostium)*
Polling Question #3

A patient, diagnosed with chronic sinusitis, told his physician that no medication has worked and the inflammation just won’t go away. The doctor ordered a diagnostic endoscopy via the inferior meatus, with a maxillary sinuscopy.
Polling Question #3

What is the most accurate CPT® code?

*1 31231
*2 31233
*3 31235

Coding Surgery

Nasal/ Sinus
Endoscopic Surgical Procedures
Surgical Endoscopy

- 31237 - 31294
- Nasal/ sinus endoscopy, surgical

Surgical sinus endoscopy includes:
- Sinusotomy (as appropriate)
- Diagnostic endoscopy

Surgical Endoscopy

Nasal/ sinus endoscopy, surgical;
- 31237 ...with biopsy, polypectomy or debridement (separate procedure)
- 31238 ...with control of nasal hemorrhage
- 31239 ...with dacyrocystorhinostomy
- 31240 ...with concha bullosa resection
Surgical Endoscopy

Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical;
- 31254 ...with ethmoidectomy, partial (anterior)
- 31255 ...with ethmoidectomy, total (anterior and posterior)

Surgical Endoscopy

- 31256 Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with maxillary antrostomy;
- 31267 ...with removal of tissue from maxillary sinus
Surgical Endoscopy

- 31276 Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with frontal sinus exploration, with or without removal of tissue from frontal sinus

Surgical Endoscopy

- 31287 Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with sphenoidotomy;
- 31288 ...with removal of tissue from sphenoid sinus
**Surgical Endoscopy**

Nasal/ sinus endoscopy, surgical, with repair of cerebrospinal fluid leak;
- 31290 ...ethmoid region
- 31291 ...sphenoid region

**Surgical Endoscopy**

Nasal/ sinus endoscopy, surgical;
- 31292 ...with medial *or* inferior orbital wall decompression
- 31293 ...with medial orbital wall *and* inferior orbital wall decompression
- 31294 ...with optic nerve decompression
Polling Question #4

The doctor performed a nasal endoscopy to control chronic epistaxis. What is the correct code?

* 1 31238
* 2 31254
* 3 31276

Coding OMC

Endoscopic Osteomeatal Complex (OMC) resections
Endoscopic OMC

- Endoscopic Osteomeatal Complex (OMC) resection with antrostomy

    And/Or

- Anterior ethmoidectomy

    With/Without

- Removal of polyps

- 31254 + 31256
**Endoscopic OMC**

- Endoscopic frontal sinus exploration
  
  _And/ Or_

- Osteomeatal Complex (OMC) resection
  
  _And/ Or_

- Anterior ethmoidectomy
  
  _With/ Without_

- Removal of polyps

- 31254 + 31276

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**Endoscopic OMC**

- Endoscopic frontal sinus exploration
  
  _And/ Or_

- Osteomeatal Complex (OMC) resection
  
  _And/ Or_

- Antrostomy
  
  _And/ Or_

- Anterior ethmoidectomy
  
  _With/ Without_

- Removal of polyps

- 31254 + 31256 + 31276
Endoscopic OMC

- Endoscopic Osteomeatal Complex (OMC) resection
  And/Or
- Frontal sinus exploration
  And/Or
- Antrostomy
  And/Or
- Removal of antral mucosal disease
  And/Or
- Anterior ethmoidectomy
  With/Without
- Removal of polyps
- 31254 + 31267 + 31276

Polling Question #5

When an endoscopic OMC is performed and polyps are removed during the same session, the polypectomy is coded separately.

*1 True
*2 False
*3 Determine by individual case
Coding APE

Endoscopic
Anterior and Posterior
Ethmoidectomy (APE)

- Endoscopic *anteiror and posterior ethmoidectomy (APE)*
  
  *And*

- Antrostomy
  
  *With/Without*

- Removal of polyps

- 31255 + 31256
Endoscopic APE

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy (APE) and
- Antrostomy and
- Removal of antral mucosal disease with/without
- Removal of polyps
- 31255 + 31267

Endoscopic APE

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy (APE) and
- Frontal sinus exploration with/without
- Removal of polyps
- 31255 + 31276
Endoscopic APE

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy (APE)
  And
- Frontal sinus exploration
  And
- Antrostomy
  With/Without
- Removal of polyps
- 31255 + 31256 + 31276
Coding APS

- Endoscopic
- Anterior and Posterior
- Ethmoidectomy
  and
- Sphenoidotomy (APS)

Endoscopic APS

- Endoscopic *anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy and sphenoidotomy (APS)*
  *With/Without*
  - Removal of polyps
  - 31255 + (31287 or 31288)
Endoscopic APS

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy and sphenoidotomy (APS)
  And
- Antrostomy
  With/Without
- Removal of polyps
  31255 + 31256 + (31287 or 31288)

Endoscopic APS

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy and sphenoidotomy (APS)
  And
- Antrostomy
  And
- Removal of antral mucosal disease
  With/Without
- Removal of polyps
  31255 + 31267 + (31287 or 31288)
**Endoscopic APS**

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy and sphenoidotomy (APS)
  
  And

- Frontal sinus exploration
  
  With/Without

- Removal of polyps

- 31255 + (31287 or 31288) + 31276

**Endoscopic APS**

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy and sphenoidotomy (APS)
  
  And

- Frontal sinus exploration
  
  And

- Antrostomy
  
  With/Without

- Removal of polyps

- 31255 + 31256 + (31287 or 31288) + 31276
Endoscopic APS

- Endoscopic anterior and posterior ethmoidectomy and sphenoidotomy (APS)
  And
- Frontal sinus exploration
  And
- Antroscopy
  And
- Removal of antral mucosal disease
  With/Without
- Removal of polyps
- 31255 + 31267 + (31287 or 31288) + 31276

Resource/Reference List

- MedlinePlus Interactive Tutorials: Sinus Surgery

- American Rhinologic Society
  www.american-rhinologic.org/patientinfo.sinussurgery.phtml

- Methodologic Assessment of Studies on Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
  http://archotol.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/129/11/1230
Audience Questions

Audio Seminar Discussion

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CE Certificate Instructions
Resource/ Reference List

http://archotol.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/129/11/1230

www.american-rhinologic.org/patientinfo.sinussurgery.phtml

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