Coding for Spinal Procedures

Audio Seminar/Webinar

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Practical Tools for Seminar Learning
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The faculty has reported no vested interests or disclosures regarding this presentation.
Shelley C. Safian, MAOM/ HSM, CCS-P, CPC-H, CHA

Shelley C. Safian is an associate professor of medical billing and coding for Herzing University Online. Ms. Safian has published four books on coding, and a fifth book on HIM compliance. She has been a member of AHIMA for many years, and sits on the Clinical Terminology and Classification Practice Council. Ms. Safian is presently working on her PhD in Health Services Administration.
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Objectives

- Review the ICD-9-CM coding classification and guidelines to report spinal diagnoses
- Discuss documentation requirements to report accurate spinal ICD-9-CM diagnosis and inpatient procedures
- Discuss challenging coding cases related to inpatient spinal procedures consistent with ICD-9-CM coding guidelines

Points Of Discussion

1: Anatomy of the Spine
2: Conditions of the Spine
3: Radiologic Spinal Procedures
4: Musculoskeletal Spinal Procedures
5: NeuroSpinal Procedures
6: Therapeutic Spinal Procedures
The Vertebral Column

- Cervical C1 – C7
- Thoracic T1 – T12
- Lumbar L1 – L5
- Sacral S1 – S5
- Coccyx
Sacrum & Coccyx

Vertebrae
Intervertebral Discs

Spinal Muscles

The spine is surrounded by many muscles and ligaments which give it great strength.
**Spinal Cord and Nerves**

Former Vice President Dick Cheney had surgery on September 17, 2009 to relieve lumbar spinal stenosis. The procedure removes a portion of the vertebra to ease pressure on the spinal cord.
Polling Question #1

The portion of the vertebra removed to relieve the pressure is ___________?

* 1 Vertebral body
* 2 Superior articular process
* 3 Lamina

Conditions of the Spine
Conditions of the Spine

- Congenital Conditions
- Pathologic Conditions
- Traumatic Injuries
- Iatrogenic Conditions

For example:

- 740.2 Iniencephaly
- 741.Xx Spina Bifida
- 742.53 Hydromyelia
- 754.2 Deformity of spine (lordosis, scoliosis)
Pathological Conditions

- 324.1 Intraspinal abscess
- 336.8 Other myelopathy
- 336.9 Myelopathy NOS, cord compression
- 720.0 Ankylosing spondylitis
- 737.xx Curvature of spine (acquired)
- 754.2 Congenital musculoskeletal deformities of spine

Traumatic Injuries

- Fractures 805.xx or 806.xx
- Dislocations 839.xx
- Sprains & strains 847.x
- Spinal cord injury
- Late effects + E codes
Iatrogenic Conditions

- 737.xx Complications of surgical and medical care
- 996.2 Mechanical complication of nervous system device
- 996.4x Mechanical complication of internal orthopedic device

Acute and Chronic Pain

- 338.1x Acute pain
  - 338.11 Acute pain due to trauma
  - 338.18 Other acute post-op pain
- 338.2x Chronic pain
  - 338.21 Chronic paid due to trauma
  - 338.28 Other chronic post-op pain
**Polling Question #2**

Little Frankie, 2 days old, has been diagnosed with congenital postural lordosis. This is reported with diagnosis code ______?

*1 754.2
*2 737.21
*3 733.13

---

**Radiologic Spinal Procedures**
### Imaging Procedures

- **Bone Density Tests**
- **Myelography**
- **MRI, X-ray, CT Scans**
- **Nuclear Medicine**

### Diagnostic Testing

- **88.98** Bone mineral density
  - 77080 - 77082 Bone density
- **88.79** Diagnostic ultrasound
  - 76977 Diagnostic ultrasound
- **87.21** Discography
  - 72285 & 72295 Discography
**Myelography**

- **87.21** X-ray of Spine, contrast myelogram
- **72240** Myelography, cervical
- **72255** Myelography, thoracic
- **72265** Myelography, lumbosacral
- **72270** Myelography, two + regions

---

**Contrast Injections**

- **87.21** Injection, contrast material for myelogram
- **61055** Cisternal or lateral cervical (C1-C2) puncture, with injection of medication or other substance for diagnosis or treatment
- **62284** Injection procedure for myelography and/or computed tomography, spinal (other than C1-C2 and posterior fossa)
## X-ray, CT Scans, MRI

- **X-ray 72010 – 72120**
- **Computed Tomography (CT) 72125 – 72133**
- **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) 72141 – 72158**

## X-ray of Spine

- **88.3** Skeletal series (whole skeleton)
- **87.2x** X-ray of Spine
  - **87.22** Other x-ray of cervical spine
  - **87.23** Other x-ray of thoracic spine
  - **87.24** Other x-ray of lumbosacral spine
  - **87.29** Other x-ray of spine NOS
**Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

- **88.93** MRI of spinal canal
- **88.94** MRI of musculoskeletal
- **88.97** Imaging, magnetic resonance, specified site, NEC

**Nuclear Medicine**

- Bone and/or joint imaging
  - 78300 - 78306
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
  - 78811 - 78816
- Single Photon Emission Tomography (SPECT)
  - 78320, 78803, 78807
Nuclear Medicine

- 92.14 Bone scan (PET)
- 92.18 Total body scan
- 92.19 Scan, radioisotope, specified site, NEC

Case Study

The patient has been running a fever and has had swelling, heat, and tenderness of his back ever since he was struck by a framing stud at the construction site where he works. The physician is concerned that he may have osteomyelitis. He orders an MRI of the thoracic spine with and without contrast, which is the best imaging for detecting spinal infections.
Polling Question #3

The MRI of the thoracic spine with and without contrast is reported with code _____?

*1 88.92
*2 88.93
*3 88.98

Musculoskeletal Spinal Procedures
Musculoskeletal Procedures

- Osteotomy
- Arthrodesis
- Fracture and Dislocation Repair
- Vertebroplasty
- Vertebral Augmentation
- Spinal Instrumentation

Osteotomy

- 22206 Osteotomy of spine, thoracic
- 22207 ... lumbar + 22208 each add’l
- 22210 ... cervical
- 22212 ... thoracic
- 22214 ... lumbar + 22216 each add’l

- 77.39 Osteotomy, vertebrae
- 77.29 Osteotomy, vertebrae, wedge
**Arthrodesis**

(Surgical immobilization of a joint)

- 22532 – 22632
- 81.0x Arthrodesis, spinal
  - or -
- 81.3x Refusion of spine
  + 81.62 - 81.64
Number of vertebrae fused

**Arthrodesis for Deformities**

- 03.59 Repair, spina bifida NEC, spinal meninges NOS, vertebral arch defect
- 22800 - 22812 Arthrodesis, for spinal deformity
Fracture/Dislocation Repair

- Type of manipulation
- Type of stabilization

Fracture/Dislocation Repair

- Open treatment
- CPT defines open treatment as either:
  - Surgically opened, the fracture visualized, and internal fixation applied
  - The fractured site is not opened, but the fractured bone is opened remotely
Open Treatment

- **03.53** Repair of vertebral fracture
- Open treatment and/or reduction of odontoid fracture(s)
  - 22318 without grafting
  - 22319 with grafting
- Open treatment and/or reduction of vertebral fracture(s)
  - 22325 lumbar
  - 22326 cervical
  - 22327 thoracic

Fracture/Dislocation Repair

- Closed treatment
- CPT® defines closed treatment of a fracture
  - Means the fracture is not opened and visualized
  - With or without manipulation
  - With or without traction
Closed Treatments

- 22305 … of vertebral process fracture(s)
- 22310 … of vertebral body fracture(s), without manipulation
- 22315 … vertebral fracture(s) and/or dislocation(s)

Re-Reduction

- When the fracture or dislocation must be reduced again...
- Modifier
  - 76 when the same physician
  - 77 when by another physician
  As appropriate...
  - Modifier 62 is permitted
Vertebroplasty

81.65 Percutaneous vertebroplasty

- 22520 thoracic
- 22521 lumbar
+ 22522 each additional vertebral body
Kyphoplasty

- **81.66 Percutaneous vertebral augmentation**
  - Includes kyphoplasty, skyphoplasty and spineoplasty

- **Percutaneous vertebral augmentation**
  - 22523 thoracic
  - 22524 lumbar
  + 22525 each additional vertebral body
Radiological Supervision

- + 00.31 Computer assisted surgery with CT/CTA
- + 00.33 Computer assisted surgery with fluoroscopy
- + 72291 under fluoroscopic guidance
- + 72292 under CT guidance

Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy (IDET)

- 80.59 Other destruction of disc (IDET)
- Percutaneous intradiscal electrothermal annuloplasty
  - 22526 single level
  - + 22527 one or more additional levels
**Intradiscal Therapy (Non-Electrothermal)**

- **80.54** Percutaneous repair of the anulus fibrosus
- Percutaneous intradiscal annuloplasty
  - **0062T** single level
  - + **0063T** one or more additional levels

**Spinal Instrumentation**

- **84.8x** Dynamic spinal stabilization device
- **Segmental instrumentation**
  - Fixation at each end of the construct and at least one additional interposed bony attachment
- **Non-segmental instrumentation**
  - Fixation at each end of the construct and may span several vertebral segments without attachment to the intervening segments
Spinal Fusion

Bone grafts are taken from the pelvis and placed on the area to be fused.

Posterolateral gutter fusion

Arthroplasty (Artificial Disc)

Replacement of Spinal Disc

- **84.6x** Insertion of spinal disc prosthesis
- **Total disc arthroplasty** (artificial disc)...
  - **22856** cervical
  - **22857** lumbar
Neurospinal Procedures

Concurrent Radiological Services

- 72275 Epidurography
- 77003 Fluoscopic guidance
  Note: 72275 already includes 77003
- 00.33 Computer-Assisted Surgery (CAS) w/ fluoroscopy
Catheter-based Treatments

- **03.6** Lysis of adhesions of spinal cord and nerve roots
- **03.90** Insertion of catheter into spinal canal
- Percutaneous lysis of epidural adhesions
  - 62263 2 or more days
  - 62264 1 day
- **Endoscopic lysis 0027T**

Lumbar Puncture (Spinal Tap)

**Spinal puncture**

- **62270** Lumbar diagnostic
- **62272** Therapeutic
- **03.31** Spinal tap
  - Not used for the injection of dye for myelogram
**Injections**

- **62280**... Subarachnoid
- **62281**... Epidural (cervical or thoracic)
- **62282** Epidural (lumbar, sacral, caudal)
- **03.8** Destructive agent
- **03.9x** Other substances
- **87.21** Contrast dyes

---

**Intrathecal & Epidural Device Implantation**
**Drug Infusion Pump Implantation**

- **86.06** Insertion of totally implantable infusion pump
  - Any associated catheterization (03.90)
- Implantation, revision or reposition
  - 62350
  - 62351
- Implantation or replacement
  - 62360
  - 62361
  - 62365

**Insertion of Device**

- **84.8x** Non-fusion stabilization device
  - 03.09 Surgical decompression
- **84.51** Interbody spinal fusion device
  - 81.0x Spinal fusion - or -
  - 81.3x Refusion of spine
Laminectomy

- **03.09** Laminectomy for exploration, decompression
- **03.4** Laminectomy with excision of other intraspinal lesion (tumor)
- **03.1** Rhizotomy
- **80.51** Laminectomy with excision of herniated intervertebral disc (nucleus pulposus)
**Laminectomy**

- Laminectomy with exploration
- Without facetectomy, foraminotomy, or discetomy
- 1 or 2 vertebral segments
  - 63001 cervical
  - 63003 thoracic
  - 63005 lumbar (except for spondylolisthesis)
  - 63011 sacral

---

**Laminectomy**

- Laminectomy with exploration
- Without facetectomy, foraminotomy, or discetomy
- More than 2 vertebral segments
  - 63015 cervical
  - 63016 thoracic
  - 63017 lumbar
**Spondylolisthesis**

- **63012** Laminectomy with removal of abnormal facets and/or pars inter-articularis with decompression of cauda equina and nerve roots for spondylolisthesis, lumbar (Gill type procedure)

---

**Laminectomy**

- **With facetectomy and foraminotomy**
- **Single vertebral segment**
  - 63045  vercial
  - 63046  thoracic
  - 63047  lumbar
  + 63048 each additional segment
Laminotomy

- Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy)
  - 63020 one interspace, cervical
  - 63030 one interspace, lumbar
  + 63035 each additional

- With reexploration, single interspace
  - 63040 cervical
  + 63043 each additional cervical
  - 63042 lumbar
  + 63044 each additional lumbar
Spinal Neurostimulators

- 03.93 Implantation or replacement of spinal neurostimulator lead(s)
  + 86.9x Insertion of neurostimulator pulse generator

- 63650 Percutaneous implantation of neurostimulator electrode array, epidural
- 63655 Laminectomy for implantation of neurostimulator electrodes, palate/paddle, epidural
Spinal Neurostimulators

Revisions & Replacements
- **63660** Revision or removal of spinal neurostimulator
- **63685** Insertion or replacement of spinal neurostimulator pulse generator or receive
- **63688** Revision or removal of implanted neurostimulator

Analysis and Programming

“A simple neurostimulator pulse generator/transmitter is one capable of affecting **three or fewer of the following:**

- Pulse amplitude
- Pulse duration
- Pulse frequency
- Eight or more electrode contacts
- Cycling
- Stimulation train duration
- Train spacing
- Number of programs
- Number of channels
- Alternating electrode polarities
- Dose time
- More than one clinical feature
**Analysis and Programming**

"A complex neurostimulator pulse generator/transmitter is one capable of affecting more than three of the below."

Electronic analysis of implanted neurostimulator pulse generator system;
- 95970 ... simple or complex brain, spinal cord, or peripheral neurostimulator, without reprogramming
- 95971 ... simple spinal cord, or peripheral neurostimulator, with intraoperative or subsequent programming
- 95972 ... complex spinal cord, or peripheral neurostimulator, with intraoperative or subsequent programming, first hour
  + 95973 ... each additional 30 minutes after first hour

---

**Spinal Stereotactic Radiosurgery**

- **92.3x** Stereotactic radiosurgery
- **63620** 1 spinal lesion + **63621** each add.
Therapeutic (Non-Surgical) Spinal Procedures

Range of Motion (ROM) Testing

- **93.05** Range of motion testing
- **95851** Range of motion measurements and report; each extremity (excluding hand) or each trunk section (spine)
**Electromyography (EMG)**

- **93.08** Electromyography
- **Needle electromyography**
  - 95860 – 95870

**Physical Therapy**

- **93.15** Mobilization of spine
- **93.22** Ambulation and gait training
- **93.27** Stretching of muscle or tendon
- **93.41** Spinal traction with skull device
- **93.42** Cotrel’s traction
Physical Therapy

- Physical Therapy
  - 97001 Evaluation
  - 97002 Re-evaluation
- Occupational Therapy
  - 97003 Evaluation
  - 97004 Re-evaluation
- Athletic Training
  - 97005 Evaluation
  - 97006 Re-evaluation

Modalities & Therapeutic Procedures

- Supervised Modalities 97010-97028
- Constant Attendance 97032-97039
- Therapeutic Procedures 97110-97546

Note:
- 97150 Therapeutic procedures, group
- Most codes 97001 - 97546 are Modifier 51 exempt
Acupuncture

- 99.91 Acupuncture for anesthesia
- 99.92 Other acupuncture
- 93.35 Acupuncture with smoldering moxa, moxibustion

Acupuncture

- 97810 ... *without electrical stimulation*, initial 15 minutes
  + 97811 *without electrical stimulation*, each addl 15 minutes... with re-insertion of needle(s)
- 97813 ... *with electrical stimulation*, initial 15 minutes
  + 97814 *with electrical stimulation*, each add 15 minutes... with re-insertion of needle(s)
### Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT)

- **93.61** ... for general mobilization
- **93.62** ... using high-velocity, low-amplitude forces
- **93.63** ... using low-velocity, high-amplitude forces
- **93.64** ... isotonic, isometric forces
- **93.65** ... using indirect forces
- **93.66** ... to move tissue fluids

### Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT)

- **93.67** Manipulation, osteopathic
- **98925** ... one to two body regions involved
- **98926** ... 3 to 4 body regions involved
- **98927** ... 5 to 6 body regions involved
- **98928** ... 7 to 8 body regions involved
- **98929** ... 9 to 10 body regions involved
Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment (CMT)

- 98940 ... spinal, one to two regions
- 98941 ... spinal, three to four regions
- 98942 ... spinal, five regions
- 98943 ... extraspinal, one or more regions

Polling Question #4

The patient was diagnosed with neoplasm of the spinal meninges. The physician performed a laminectomy and excised an intraspinal tumor. Report this with ______? 

*1 03.4, 03.09 
*2 03.4 
*3 03.32
Resource/Reference List

- Anatomy Guide: Normal Spine
  http://www.webmd.com/content/tools/1/anatomy_normal_spine.htm

- Medical Encyclopedia Posterior Spinal Anatomy

- Anatomy: The Spinal Column
  http://www.spine.org/Pages/ConsumerHealth/SpineConditionsAndTreatments/Anatomy/Default.aspx

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