

## Report therapeutic hip injection under fluoro with 20610 and 77002

Use the following Q & A to determine how to bill imaging when you provide a hip injection.

**Question:** How do you report an injection of the hip under fluoroscopy? Do you use the arthrogram codes?

**Answer:** No. In fact, the AMA recently clarified this issue. If you are injecting a steroid or anesthetic agent into the hip joint under fluoroscopic guidance, you would report 20610 for the major joint injection and 77002 for the use of the fluoroscope for needle guidance, according to the June 2012 CPT Assistant. Note that this guidance updates some inaccurate coding advice issued in the February 2012 CPT Assistant, which you should now set aside.

The decision to report 20610 versus a hip arthrogram comes down to intent – and by the way, the amount of contrast injected doesn't make a difference, the AMA says.

“If the contrast is injected only to confirm needle position within the joint, the quantity [of contrast] does not matter,” according to the June 2012 CPT Assistant. “If instead the contrast is injected with the intention to outline the joint surface to perform a radiographic arthrogram, then it is an arthrogram even if only a few ccs of contrast material are injected.”

That busts the old myth that you could tell whether an injection was a diagnostic radiological test, such as an arthrogram, versus a therapeutic injection by how much contrast or dye the physician used. The AMA clarifies that physicians instead must signal the intent of the injection – treatment or diagnostic – in their procedure notes.

In addition, to bill an arthrogram, your documentation should include radiographic hard copies of the arthrogram in multiple views and a separate radiological interpretation and report, the AMA instructs (CPT Assistant, July 2008).

Code a hip arthrogram using either 27093 when no anesthesia is used or 27095 when the injection is done under anesthesia. In each case, you'd report radiological supervision and interpretation with 73525.

## Sacroiliac Joint Injections

- **27096** — Injection procedure for sacroiliac joint, anesthetic/steroid, with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT) including arthrography when performed.

### Description of Procedure

Under CT or fluoroscopic guidance, a needle tip is fed into the caudal aspect of the articular joint between the sacrum and iliac. The injection may be diagnostic (contrast material or anesthetic) or therapeutic (anesthetic or steroid). If the injection is performed without CT or fluoroscopic guidance, report a trigger code injection.

### Code Scope

- Under CT or fluoroscopic guidance, a therapeutic or diagnostic agent is injected into the sacroiliac joint.
- CT or fluoroscopic imaging guidance is required to confirm the intra-articular needle positioning. This code reports both the injection and the imaging guidance.
- A therapeutic or diagnostic procedure is performed.