

Remote Login



HOME

start here

BILLING SERVICES

what we do

COMPANY PROFILE

who are we

SEMINARS

come and listen

CONTACT US

get in touch

2015 Arthrocentesis Injection coding updates

on 06 January 2015. Posted in [Coding Updates](#)

2015 Arthrocentesis Injection coding updates

Starting **January 1, 2015** all providers will need to properly report Arthrocentesis procedures dependent if *the procedure was performed with or without ultrasound guidance*.

Without Ultrasound Guidance:

Starting **January 1, 2015**, CPT codes **20600, 20605, or 20610** have been revised to describe Arthrocentesis procedures performed *without ultrasound guidance*.

- ❖ **20600:** Arthrocentesis, aspiration and /or injection, small joint or bursa (eg, fingers; toes); **without ultrasound guidance**, with permanent recording and reporting.
- ❖ **20605:** Arthrocentesis, aspiration and /or injection, intermediate joint or bursa (eg, temporomandibular, acromioclavicular, wrists, elbow or ankle, olecranon bursa;); **without ultrasound guidance**, with permanent recording and reporting.
- ❖ **20610:** Arthrocentesis, aspiration and /or injection, major joint or bursa (eg, shoulder, hip, knee, subacromial bursa); **without ultrasound guidance**, with permanent recording and reporting.

With Ultrasound Guidance:

Starting **January 1, 2015**, CPT **20604, 20606, or 20611** have been created to report Arthrocentesis procedures perform *with ultrasound guidance*.

- ❖ **20604:** Arthrocentesis, aspiration and /or injection, small joint or bursa (eg, fingers; toes); **with ultrasound guidance**, with permanent recording and reporting.
- ❖ **20606:** Arthrocentesis, aspiration and /or injection, intermediate joint or bursa (eg,

temporomandibular, acromioclavicular, wrists, elbow or ankle, olecranon bursa); **with ultrasound guidance**, with permanent recording and reporting.

❖ **20611**: Arthrocentesis, aspiration and /or injection, major joint or bursa (eg, shoulder, hip, knee, subacromial bursa); **with ultrasound guidance**, with permanent recording and reporting

Steps for proper coding:

- ❖ *Determine the size of the joint.*
- ❖ *Review the description to determine if imaging is used.*
- ❖ *Report 20604, 20606, or 20611 if performed with ultrasound guidance*
- ❖ *If fluoroscopic, CT, or MRI guidance is used report 20600, 20605, 20610 for the surgical procedure and see 77002, 77012, and 77021 to report imaging guidance separately.*

As always, my staff will be available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

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