

# Ultrasound Guided Injection Billing

David Westerdahl MD FAAFP RMSK  
Sports Health Northwest  
[www.sportshealthnorthwest.com](http://www.sportshealthnorthwest.com)

# Disclaimer

- I am not a coding or billing specialist!
- I frequently ask my billing team questions about billing and coding



# Objectives

1

Review  
common  
injection CPT  
codes

2

Discuss  
Ultrasound  
guidance code

3

Discuss  
ultrasound  
diagnostic  
codes

# Ultrasound Diagnostic Imaging CPT

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76881—  
Complete  
exam

Shoulder  
Other locations where joint evaluation is included

76882—  
Limited  
exam

Does not include joint evaluation  
Hamstring, Calf

# Joint Injection CPT

## Palpation

20600—Small Joint

Fingers and toes

20605—Intermed Joint

Elbow, wrist, ankle, AC joint

20610—Large Joint

Shoulder, subacromial bursa, hip,  
knee

## Ultrasound guided

20604—Small Joint

20606—Intermed Joint

20611—Large Joint

Must have a permanent recording of  
the procedure

# CPT 20611, etc requires the following

Documentation of a focused ultrasound evaluation

Obtain, label, and interpret images in multiple planes through the specific area of concern.

Documentation of the normal anatomic structure and any pathologic findings.

Documentation of separate stand-alone report for the patient's chart (CPT code and radiology requirement).

Documentation the procedure itself, including prep, intraservice work, and patient tolerance.

Documentation of the specific medication and dosage if a therapeutic injection was performed.

# Sample Procedure Note

## Office Procedures:

### INJECTIONS/ASPIRATIONS

#### UNIVERSAL PROTOCOL/SAFETY CHECKLIST

The risks, benefits, alternatives, treatment options, expected outcomes, rehabilitation, convalescence of the procedure and extent of functional limitations have been discussed at length with the patient. The risks include but are not limited to: pain, infection, medical complications, injury to nerves and blood vessels, injury to surrounding structures, wound healing complications. The patient understands and agrees with the above mentioned treatment plan: All questions were entertained and answered. No guarantees were made or implied. The patient wishes to proceed with the above procedure(s) here at Sports Health Northwest.

#### Time out:

Yes.

#### Image Guidance

Utilization of direct ultrasound guidance and standard sterile ultrasound cover and gel was used to ensure proper placement of the needle and injectate and to avoid adjacent neurovascular structures. Images obtained and archived on PACS.

#### Diagnosis/Indication

Pre-procedure diagnosis: L knee pain, oa. Post-Procedure diagnosis: same. Pre-procedure indication: pain L knee.

#### Procedure performed

This patient presents for an injection of hyaluronic acid, of the L knee. The area was sterilely prepped with a povidone-iodine solution. The patient was positioned Semi-Recumbent. for the procedure. A 22g, 1.5 inch needle was atraumatically introduced into the target area. Following negative aspiration, as the needle was advanced to the target area, the area between the skin insertion site and the target was anesthetized with 1 mL, of Lidocaine 1%. The intended injection site was injected with 2.5 mL, of Trivisc. A sterile bandage/dressing was applied to the area.

#### Disposition

There were no complications. The patient tolerated the procedure well. After a brief observation period, the patient was discharged under their own power and in excellent condition.

#### Post-Procedure

The patient was instructed to remain in the supine position for several minutes after the injection. The injected region was moved through passive range of motion.

# Ultrasound Guidance CPT

When to use  
CPT 76942

20551: Tennis  
elbow

20612:  
Aspiration of  
ganglion cyst

20552: Trigger  
point

20526: Carpal  
Tunnel Asp/Inj

20553: Trigger  
point 3 or more

20550 : Plantar  
Fascia, De  
quervains



# Conclusion

- Consider modifiers RT, LT, 50, 25, and 59
- ICD 10 codes matter
- Insurances may have different policies
- Pre-auths may be needed
- Have a process for storing and retrieving images if billing diagnostic or therapeutic ultrasound procedures
- Have a standard template for your procedure and documentation
- You will get audited

# Thank You!

