### Manual: Reimbursement Policy

**Policy Title:** Intra-joint and Surgical Site Postoperative Pain Relief Drug Delivery System (Pain Pump)

**Section:** Surgery

**Subsection:** None

**Date of Origin:** 7/22/2011

**Policy Number:** RPM014

**Last Updated:** 1/14/2020

**Last Reviewed:** 2/12/2020

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### Scope

This policy applies to all Commercial medical plans, Medicare Advantage plans, and Oregon Medicaid/EOCCO plans.

### Reimbursement Guidelines

Placement of a pain pump catheter(s) for postoperative pain control is not eligible for separate reimbursement, regardless of the procedure code used to identify this service. Payment for the work involved it is considered included in the global surgery allowance for the primary surgical procedure(s).

The CPT or HCPCS code(s) used to describe a surgical procedure includes all services integral to accomplishing the procedure (CMS¹), including but not limited to:

1. Insertion and removal of drains, suction devices, and pumps into same site. (CMS¹)
2. Topical or regional anesthetic administered by the physician performing the procedure. (CMS²-³)
3. Application, management, and removal of postoperative dressings including anesthetic devices. (CMS³)
4. The management of postoperative pain by the surgeon who performed the procedure, including epidural or subarachnoid drug administration, is included in the global period services associated with the operative procedure. (CMS⁵)

### Coding Guidelines

It is not correct coding to use a CPT or HCPCS code that does not accurately describe the procedure being performed. CPT specifically states: “Select the name of the procedure or service that accurately identifies the service performed. **Do not select a CPT code that merely approximates the service provided.** If no such specific code exists, then report the service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code.” (AMA⁷) (Bold added)
Codes and Definitions

There are no CPT or HCPCS codes that describe placement of a pain pump catheter.

The following listed CPT codes have been used to report the placement of a pain pump catheter for postoperative pain control. However, none of these procedure codes accurately describe this procedure, and should not be used for this purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11981</td>
<td>Insertion, non-biodegradable drug delivery implant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37202</td>
<td>Transcatheter therapy, infusion other than for thrombolysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following unlisted CPT codes may also be used to report the placement of a pain pump catheter for postoperative pain control. This list is not exhaustive. Other unlisted codes may also be used, depending on the surgical site involved. Regardless of the procedure code used, this service is not eligible for separate reimbursement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19499</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20999</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, musculoskeletal system, general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22899</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, spine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22999</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, abdomen, musculoskeletal system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23929</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27599</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, femur or knee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49329</td>
<td>Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, abdomen, peritoneum and omentum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49999</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, abdomen, peritoneum and omentum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross References


References & Resources


Background Information

Following any surgical procedure, there is some degree of pain experienced by the patient. One method of extended pain control being used is the “pain pump”. One or more catheters are placed at the operative site. The catheter is connected to a pain pump that provides continuous infusion of a local anesthetic. The pain pump catheter is usually left in for several days.

Some of the pain pumps that may be used include, but are not limited to, the Marcaine Pump, ON-Q PainBuster Post-Op Pain Relief System, ON-Q C-bloc, Stryker Pain Pump.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT

The purpose of Moda Health Reimbursement Policy is to document payment policy for covered medical and surgical services and supplies. Health care providers (facilities, physicians and other professionals) are expected to exercise independent medical judgment in providing care to members. Reimbursement policy is not intended to impact care decisions or medical practice.

Providers are responsible for accurately, completely, and legibly documenting the services performed. The billing office is expected to submit claims for services rendered using valid codes from HIPAA-approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry standard coding guidelines (including but not limited to UB Editor, AMA, CPT, CPT Assistant, HCPCS, DRG guidelines, CMS’ National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines).

Benefit determinations will be based on the applicable member contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between the Moda Health Reimbursement Policy and the member contract language, the member contract language will prevail, to the extent of any inconsistency. Fee determinations will be based on the applicable provider contract language and Moda Health reimbursement policy. To the extent there are any conflicts between Reimbursement Policy and the provider contract language, the provider contract language will prevail.