

Endoscopies

Los AI Coders Network
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Medical Terminology

- endo – “within”
- scopy – “examination of”
- **scopy** = “visualization of a body part by means of a scope “

Endoscopy = “looking inside”

- Endoscopy is a minimally invasive diagnostic/surgical procedure that is used to assess the interior surfaces of an organ by inserting a tube into the body.
- The instrument may have a rigid or flexible tube and not only provide an image for visual inspection and photography, but also enable taking biopsies and retrieval of foreign objects.

- Endoscopy is the vehicle for minimally invasive surgery.
- Endoscopies can be located in the CPT alphabetic index at the main term
 - ‘Endoscopy’ then by looking up the subterm of the anatomic site
 - The name of the endoscopy (e.g. colonoscopy, bronchoscopy)

Instrument

- Rigid or flexible
- Light
 - visualize the subject area under inspection
 - external, directed via an optical fiber system
- Lens
 - transmits image to viewer from the fiberscope
- Allows the insertion of medical instruments or manipulators

Uses

- Make a diagnosis, such as obtaining biopsy of an organ that history, examinations and laboratory studies suggest is not working properly.
- Make a repair to an organ
- Retrieve foreign body

Recent developments

- With the application of robotic systems, telesurgery was introduced as the surgeon can operate from a site physically removed from the patient.
- The first transatlantic surgery has been called the Lindbergh Operation.

Risks

- Infection
- Punctured organs (open surgery may be necessary to make repairs)
- Allergic reactions due to contrast agents or dyes (such as those used in a CT scan)
- Over-sedation

NCCI

- National Correct Coding Initiative
- www.cms.hhs.gov
- Look up Physician Fee Schedule to discover the RVU for each procedure

Several procedures same session

- Multiple endoscopy rules
- Base code
- Higher RVU first
- -51 modifier on lower RVU procedures

Diagnostic is always included in the surgical

Via

- Body Orifice
- Incision
- Gastrointestinal tract
 - Mouth
 - Rectum
- Respiratory tract
- Urinary tract
- Female reproductive
- Arthroscopy
- Thoracoscopy
- Mediastinoscopy

Arthroscopy

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- Becoming the treatment of choice
 - Smaller incisions
 - Decreased risk of infection
 - Faster recovery time
- Included in procedure:
 - Shaving
 - Removing
 - Evacuating
 - Casting/splinting/strapping

CPT note

- When an arthroscopy is performed in conjunction with arthrotomy, add modifier -51.

“arthroscopic shaving of the articular cartilage and an open capsulotomy (posterior capsular release) of the knee”

29877 arthroscopic shaving

27435 capsulotomy

51 modifier to the lower RVU procedure

Knee arthroscopies

- Use of basket forceps indicates meniscectomy (meniscus removal) rather than a shaving and debridement

Sinus Endoscopy

31231-31294

- Inserted through nose
- Are unilateral (except for diagnostic)
- Multiple procedures may be performed on different sinuses during same session
 - Frontal
 - Maxillary
 - Ethmoid
- Some may be combination codes

- If a diagnostic endoscopy is performed on the right maxillary sinus and a surgical endoscopic maxillectomy on the left, both may be reported using the –LT and –RT modifiers as appropriate.

Choosing a code

- Based on the farthest extent of the procedure
 - Tracheoscopy is 31515 (direct laryngoscopy)
 - When extended to the bronchial tubes it is 31622 (bronchoscopy)

Laryngoscopy

- visualization of the
 - Pharynx
 - Larynx
- Indirect
 - Use of a mirror
- Direct
 - View directly through endoscope

Bronchoscopy

- Visualization of the
 - tracheobronchial tree

Panendoscopy

- combination of
 - direct laryngoscopy (with or without microscopic assistance),
 - esophagoscopy, and
 - bronchoscopy
- examination of the entire upper aerodigestive tract

- multiple procedures may be performed at the same session
 - add the 51 modifier on the lower RVU procedures

Digestive System

- 43200 – 43232, Esophagoscopy important in diagnosing
 - dysphagia
 - odynophagia
 - caustic ingestion
 - trauma
 - ingested foreign bodies
 - suspected anomalies
 - upper aerodigestive tract malignancies

Digestive System

- 43234-43272
 - Upper Gastrointestinal aka Upper GI aka EGD
 - Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography aka ERCP
- 44360-44397
 - Small intestine
 - Colonoscopy through stoma

Digestive System

- 45300-45392
 - Proctosigmoidoscopy: rectum & sigmoid
 - Sigmoidoscopy: entire rectum, sigmoid colon and may include a portion of the descending colon
 - Colonoscopy: entire colon, from rectum to cecum; may include examination of the terminal ileum.

- If the patient is fully prepared for the endoscopic procedure, and the procedure is began but is not completed because of extenuating circumstances, use modifier -53 (Discontinued Procedure).
- Sometimes -52 (Reduced Services) is used.
- Provide documentation.

Kidney

- 50551-50581
 - Through nephrostomy or pyelostomy
 - Biopsy
 - Catheterization
 - Irrigation
 - Instillation
 - Fulguration
 - Foreign body
 - Calculus removal

CPT

- Locate in the alphabetic index under the main term “Kidney” and subterm the procedure (e.g. excision)
- “exclusive of radiological services”
 - Code radiology separately

Medical Terminology

- Words that may come up:
 - Transureteroureterostomy
 - Ureteroneocystostomy
 - Uretersigmoidostomy
- Keep your medical dictionary close by.

Ureter

- 50951-50980
 - Performed through an established stoma (ureterostomy) [similar to those through nephrostomy]

Female Reproductive

- 56820-56821, Colposcopy, vulva
- 57420-57421, Colposcopy, vagina
 - Usually bundled into larger procedure
- 57452-57461, Colposcopy, cervix uteri
 - Loop electrode excision procedure aka LEEP

Sources

- CPT-4
- ICD-9-CM
- Buck, Carol, Step-by-Step Coding 2007
- webMD.com
- www.medscape.com
- www.wikipedia.com