

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Anesthesiologists May Bill Moderate Sedation Codes With Nerve Blocks

If an anesthesiologist provides anesthesia for diagnostic or therapeutic nerve blocks or injections, **and** another provider performs the block or injection, then the anesthesiologist (or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist [CRNA]) can bill for the anesthesia service using 01991, according to new Transmittal 1316.

But if the anesthesiologist or CRNA performs both the anesthesia service **and** the block or injection, then the anesthesiologist/CRNA may use a moderate sedation code (99143-99145) and the injection/block code.

If the anesthesiologist/CRNA only performed a lower level complexity anesthesia service, you shouldn't use the moderate sedation code, CMS cautions.