

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Questions: Select 64640 for Phenol Injections

Question: How should I code (1) phenol injections to the left pectoralis major muscle group destroying the pectoralis nerve complex over two different sites and (2) phenol into the left musculocutaneous nerve within the left biceps?

California Subscriber

Answer: You should review the "Destruction by Neurolytic Agent" category in the CPT and look at code 64640 (Destruction by neurolytic agent; other peripheral nerve or branch). This CPT category for nerve destruction includes several techniques that meet the definition of a neurolytic agent, including chemical, thermal, electrical or radiofrequency. Phenol, ethyl alcohol and hypertonic saline are examples of chemical neurolytic agents that physicians have used since the 1920s.