Urology Coding Alert

Reader Question: Submit Multiple Codes for Complicated PCNL

Question: The surgeon did a cystoscopy and retrograde pyelogram to aid in renal access, a percutaneous renal access and dilation, a percutaneous lithotripsy, PCNL, of a renal pelvic stone >2cm, and an antegrade ureteroscopy and removal of a distal ureteral stone. He then placed a nephrostomy tube and did an antegrade nephrostogram. How should I code this scenario?

New Jersey Subscriber

Answer: Apply the following codes to your clinical scenario:

- 50081 (Percutaneous nephrostolithotomy or pyelostolithotomy, with or without dilation, endoscopy, lithotripsy, stenting, or basket extraction; over 2 cm) for the PCNL with diagnosis N20.0 (Calculus of kidney); this includes the nephrostomy drainage at the end of the case
- 50395 (Introduction of guide into renal pelvis and/or ureter with dilation to establish nephrostomy tract, percutaneous) for the renal access
- 52005 (Cystourethroscopy, with ureteral catheterization, with or without irrigation, instillation, or ureteropyelography, exclusive of radiologic service) for the cystoscopy and retrograde pyelogram
- 50961 (Ureteral endoscopy through established ureterostomy, with or without irrigation, instillation, or ureteropyelography, exclusive of radiologic service; with removal of foreign body or calculus) with modifier XS (Separate structure) for the ureteroscopic ureteral stone removal with associated diagnosis N20.1 (Calculus of ureter)
- 50431 (Injection procedure for antegrade nephrostogram and/or ureterogram, complete diagnostic procedure including imaging guidance [e.g., ultrasound and fluoroscopy] and all associated radiological supervision and interpretation; existing access) for the performance of the nephrostogram, including interpretation, via an existing access.