

Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

Reader Question: Remember To Mention Laterality with Radiculitis Pain Management Codes

Question: A patient complains of severe low back radiculitis. The provider injected a combination of anesthetic and steroid (triamcinolone and methylprednisolone), using a 3-1/2-inch spinal needle, in the left L3-L4 neuroforaminal epidural space, under fluoroscopic guidance. How do we report this?

Utah Subscriber

Answer: You may report this with 64483 (injection[s], anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance [fluoroscopy or CT; lumbar or sacral, single level], along with modifier LT [left side]). This procedure is the injection of an anesthetic agent or steroid as a transforaminal epidural into a single level (either lumbar or sacral).

Note: For transforaminal epidural injection under ultrasound guidance, you may use 0230T (Injection[s], anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with ultrasound guidance, lumbar or sacral; single level).

Remember that CPT® codes 64479-64484 (Injection[s], anesthetic agent and/or steroid, transforaminal epidural, with imaging guidance [fluoroscopy or CT]...) are unilateral procedures. For bilateral procedures, use modifier 50 (Bilateral procedure).