

## Pain Management Coding Alert

### ICD-10 Coding: Check Out 1 Payer's Face/Neck Chemodenervation Code List

**Here's why you need to know every payer's policy on paying 64612-64617.**

Choosing an acceptable diagnosis code for face/neck chemodenervation can be tricky, as payers can have differing ideas about medical necessity for these injections.

One thing's for sure: the conditions listed in the CPT® code descriptors are by no means complete, confirms **Judith L. Blaszczyk, RN, CPC, ACS-PM, ICDCT-CM**, compliance auditor at ACE, Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas. Check out the descriptors below:

- 64612 - Chemodenervation of muscle(s); muscle(s) innervated by facial nerve, unilateral (eg, for blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm)
- 64615 - ... muscle(s) innervated by facial, trigeminal, cervical spinal and accessory nerves, bilateral (eg, for chronic migraine)
- 64616 - ... neck muscle(s), excluding muscles of the larynx, unilateral (eg, for cervical dystonia, spasmodic torticollis)
- 64617 - ... larynx, unilateral, percutaneous (eg, for spasmodic dysphonia), includes guidance by needle electromyography, when performed.

If you count, that's six conditions given as examples that could prove medical necessity for these services - six conditions spread out over four codes.

Now, let's consider a leading Medicare payer's list of acceptable diagnoses for 64612-64617. Noridian lists about 150 ICD-10 codes as potential proof of medical necessity for 64612-64617, among them:

- G51.4 - Facial myokymia
- H02.041 - Spastic entropion of right upper eyelid
- H49.23 - Sixth [abducent] nerve palsy, bilateral
- H50.021 - Monocular esotropia with A pattern, right eye
- H50.08 - Alternating esotropia with other noncomitancies
- H50.611 - Brown's sheath syndrome, right eye
- H50.69 - Other mechanical strabismus
- J38.3 - Other diseases of vocal cords
- J38.5 - Laryngeal spasm
- J39.2 - Other diseases of pharynx.

**Lesson:** Take the CPT® code descriptors at face value at your own peril; ideally, you should dig deeper into your payer's policies to get the diagnosis coding dope on face/neck chemodenervation.