

## Pain Management Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Get Anatomy Right on Finger Arthroplasties

**Question:** Notes indicate that the PM physician performed arthroplasty of a patient's finger joint. What is the correct code for this service?

Minnesota Subscriber

**Answer:** The correct code will depend on two questions:

- Did the provider use a prosthetic implant during the encounter?
- What is the specific anatomy of the arthroplasty?

When the provider performs arthroplasty on a patient's metacarpophalangeal joint, you'll report 26530 (Arthroplasty, metacarpophalangeal joint; each joint) for each joint he injects. If the shots include a prosthetic implant, then choose 25631 (... with prosthetic implant, each joint) instead.

When the provider performs arthroplasty on a patient's interphalangeal joint, you'll report 26535 (

Arthroplasty, interphalangeal joint; each joint) for each joint he injects. If the shots include a prosthetic implant, then choose 25636 (... with prosthetic implant, each joint) instead.