

## Pain Management Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Narrow Bupivacaine HCl Injection Choices to S0020 and J3490

**Question:** What is the best HCPCS code for a bupivacaine HCl injection (10 mL, single dose)? I know the generic name is Sensorcaine, but haven't found coding information during my research.

Vermont Subscriber

**Answer:** The two potential codes for this scenario are S0020 (Injection, bupivacaine hydrochloride, 30 ml) or J3490 (Unclassified drugs). With that said, many payers do not allow separate payment for any local anesthetic. The only exception would be if the bupivacaine was used as a compounded refill for an implantable infusion pump. Then Medicare and many other commercial payers do allow coverage for the local anesthetic but not in other uses.