

## Pain Management Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Use Correct Infusion Code or Risk Denial

**Question:** One of our providers performed an intravenous (IV) infusion for prophylaxis. Encounter notes indicate that the service lasted 45 minutes and included a pair of drugs. How do I report the infusions?

Florida Subscriber

**Answer:** The initial infusion code is easy to spot from these notes, but the claim gets murkier when considering the add-on code to represent the second drug. You're going to need some more information on which type of secondary infusion your provider performs before you can round out this claim.

**Base code:** No matter the type of secondary infusion, you'll report 96365 (Intravenous infusion, for therapy, prophylaxis, or diagnosis (specify substance or drug); initial, up to 1 hour) for the initial infusion. There are two types of secondary IV infusions; additional sequential and concurrent.

You'll report each additional sequential infusion with +96367 (... additional sequential infusion of a new drug/substance, up to 1 hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)). Additional sequential IV infusions occur when the provider infuses a new drug/substance through the same IV access immediately after the initial drug/substance infusion. You'll report these infusions with +96367.

Concurrent infusions occur when the provider "administers an intravenous infusion or infusions of multiple medications or substances concurrently with another infusion to prevent, treat, or diagnose a condition or disease" through the same IV line, according to Codify. So, when the provider performs two infusions simultaneously, you'll report +96368 (... concurrent infusion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)) for each concurrent infusion.

**J code alert:** For many of the IV infusion services, you'll be able to report a HCPCS J code for the drug supply. Go back and check the notes for the substances used during the service; then check the HCPCS manual, and your payer policies, to see if the drug/substance is separately codeable.