

Pain Management Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Add New Options for Paravertebral Thoracic Block in 2016

Question: My physician documented that he placed a thoracic paravertebral block for post-op pain management. The only codes I'm finding for paravertebral blocks are 64470-64484 and 64490-64493, but I'm not sure if they apply for post-op pain management. Am I missing codes somewhere?

Alabama Subscriber

Answer: CPT® instructs you to report these paravertebral injections (not facet joint injections) with one of the intercostal injection codes. Report either 64420 (Injection, anesthetic agent; intercostal nerve, single) or 64421 (...intercostal nerves, multiple, regional block), depending upon how many nerves your physician injects.

That will change in a few weeks, when 2016 will bring specific codes for this type of procedure:

- 64461 □ Paravertebral block (PVB) (paraspinous block), thoracic single injection site (including imaging guidance, when performed)
- + 64462 □ ... second and any additional injection site(s) (includes imaging guidance, when performed)(List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 64463 □ ... continuous infusion by catheter (includes imaging guidance, when performed).