

Pain Management Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Counting, Separating Nerve Conduction Studies

Question: I need help with this nerve conduction study (NCS) claim: Notes indicate that the PM specialist performed a right median and right ulnar NCS. Additionally, she performed a left ulnar NCS. Is this a 95907 or 95908 claim? I'm wondering if the right and left ulnar studies are separate.

Montana Subscriber

Answer: If the PM specialist performs bilateral ulnar studies, it counts as two studies. So, you should report 95908 (Nerve conduction studies; 3-4 studies) for the service, as the PM specialist performed a right median NCS in addition to the two ulnar studies.

Good idea: Since the provider performed studies on both sides of the body and duplicated one test on the left and right side (ulnar) there could be some confusion when the payer processes the claim. You might want to consider submitting a clarification in the notes that explains the situation. Something like "performed ulnar NCS on right and left sides."