

Dr. Z's Medical Coding Series
Diagnostic Radiology
Coding Reference



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Table of Contents

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	1
CHAPTER 1: PROCEDURE CODING.....	3
CHAPTER 2: MODIFIERS.....	11
CHAPTER 3: HOSPITAL CODING AND PAYMENT BASICS.....	23
CHAPTER 4: PHYSICIAN CODING AND PAYMENT BASICS	39
CHAPTER 5: PHYSICIAN ORDERS.....	49
CHAPTER 6: DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY.....	53
HEAD.....	53
DENTAL PROCEDURES.....	57
NECK.....	59
CHEST.....	60
RIBS.....	63
CERVICAL SPINE.....	64
THORACIC SPINE.....	66
LUMBOSACRAL SPINE.....	68
ENTIRE SPINE.....	70
MYELOGRAPHY.....	72
PELVIS AND HIPS.....	75
OBSTETRICAL/GYNECOLOGICAL.....	77
ABDOMEN.....	79
UPPER EXTREMITIES.....	81
LOWER EXTREMITIES.....	85
ARTHROGRAPHY.....	89
OTHER BONE AND JOINT STUDIES.....	92
BONE DENSITY (BONE MASS MEASUREMENT).....	94
URINARY TRACT.....	99
GASTROINTESTINAL PROCEDURES.....	102
<i>Esophagography and Upper Gastrointestinal Imaging.....</i>	<i>102</i>
<i>Colon Imaging.....</i>	<i>107</i>
<i>Other Gastrointestinal Imaging.....</i>	<i>109</i>
INFANTS AND PEDIATRIC PROCEDURES.....	111
OTHER.....	113
MAMMOGRAPHY.....	116
<i>Screening Mammography.....</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>Diagnostic Mammography.....</i>	<i>119</i>
BREAST INTERVENTIONS.....	121
<i>Breast Needle Biopsy.....</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>Breast Localization.....</i>	<i>124</i>
<i>Ultrasound Breast Cyst Aspiration.....</i>	<i>128</i>
<i>Galactogram.....</i>	<i>130</i>
VASCULAR ACCESS DEVICE PLACEMENT.....	131
<i>Non-Tunneled/Temporary Central Venous Access.....</i>	<i>136</i>
<i>Tunneled/Permanent Central Venous Access.....</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>Catheter Check.....</i>	<i>144</i>
<i>Catheter Maintenance.....</i>	<i>146</i>

CHAPTER 7: COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY.....	151
CT OF THE HEAD AND NECK	155
CT OF THE CHEST (THORAX).....	157
CT OF THE BREAST	162
CT OF THE SPINE	164
CT OF THE ABDOMEN AND PELVIS.....	166
CT OF THE EXTREMITIES	169
OTHER CT PROCEDURES.....	171
CHAPTER 8: COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHIC ANGIOGRAPHY	177
CTA OF THE CHEST	179
CTA OF THE ABDOMEN	181
CTA OF THE PELVIS	183
CTA OF THE ABDOMEN AND PELVIS	185
CTA OF THE UPPER AND LOWER EXTREMITIES.....	187
CTA OF ABDOMINAL AORTA AND BILATERAL ILIOFEMORAL LOWER EXTREMITY RUN-OFF.....	189
CTA OF THE CEREBROVASCULAR SYSTEM.....	191
CORONARY COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHIC ANGIOGRAPHY.....	193
HYBRID CT	198
CHAPTER 9: MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING	201
MRI SAFETY PROCEDURES (IMPLANT, FOREIGN BODY).....	204
MRI OF THE HEAD AND NECK.....	207
MRI OF THE CHEST AND BREAST.....	213
MRI OF THE SPINE.....	216
MRI OF THE ABDOMEN AND PELVIS	218
MRI OF THE EXTREMITIES.....	221
OTHER MRI PROCEDURES.....	224
CHAPTER 10: MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANGIOGRAPHY.....	229
MRA OF THE CHEST	231
MRA OF THE ABDOMEN	233
MRA OF THE PELVIS.....	235
MRA OF THE SPINE	236
MRA OF THE UPPER AND LOWER EXTREMITIES	237
MRA OF THE CEREBROVASCULAR SYSTEM.....	239
CARDIAC MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING.....	241
CHAPTER 11: ULTRASOUND	245
ULTRASOUND OF THE HEAD AND NECK.....	246
OPHTHALMIC ULTRASOUND.....	248
ULTRASOUND OF THE CHEST AND BREAST.....	251
ULTRASOUND OF THE ABDOMEN AND PELVIS	254
ULTRASOUND OF THE MALE GENITALIA	260
OBSTETRICAL ULTRASOUND, DIAGNOSTIC	262
ULTRASOUND OF THE EXTREMITIES	267
ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE FOR NEEDLE PLACEMENT AND/OR DRAINAGE	270
OBSTETRICAL/GYNECOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS	272
ULTRASOUND WITH CONTRAST	275
OTHER ULTRASOUND PROCEDURES.....	277
CHAPTER 12: NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES.....	285
OVERVIEW	285

ARTERIAL STUDIES	290
<i>Transcranial Doppler/Quantitative Carotid Intima Media</i>	290
<i>Extracranial Cerebrovascular Duplex</i>	293
NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR STUDIES OF THE UPPER EXTREMITY ARTERIES.....	295
<i>Upper Extremity Arterial Segmental Physiologic Evaluation</i>	295
<i>Upper Extremity Arterial Duplex</i>	298
NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR STUDIES OF THE LOWER EXTREMITY ARTERIES.....	300
<i>Lower Extremity Arterial Segmental Physiologic Evaluation</i>	300
<i>Lower Extremity Arterial Duplex</i>	304
NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR STUDIES OF THE AORTA	306
NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR STUDIES OF THE RENAL AND OTHER VISCERAL VESSELS.....	309
PENILE VESSEL ASSESSMENT.....	311
VENOUS SYSTEM.....	313
EXTREMITY VENOUS DUPLEX.....	313
VEIN MAPPING	316
NON-INVASIVE VASCULAR STUDIES OF ARTERIAL VENOUS HEMODIALYSIS ACCESS SITES	318
CHAPTER 13: NUCLEAR MEDICINE	321
ENDOCRINE SYSTEM	328
HEMATOPOIETIC, RETICULOENDOTHELIAL, AND LYMPHATIC SYSTEM.....	332
GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM.....	335
<i>Liver and Spleen</i>	335
<i>Hepatobiliary System</i>	338
<i>Salivary Gland Imaging</i>	340
<i>Esophageal, Gastric, and Intestinal Studies</i>	341
<i>Urea Breath Test</i>	344
<i>Peritoneal-Venous Shunt Patency Test</i>	345
NERVOUS SYSTEM	346
KIDNEY IMAGING	349
URINARY BLADDER IMAGING	352
GENITAL PROCEDURES	354
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM	355
TUMOR AND INFLAMMATORY PROCESS LOCALIZATION	359
CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM.....	364
BLOOD POOL IMAGING	366
MYOCARDIAL IMAGING.....	370
OTHER CARDIOVASCULAR	374
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	376
THERAPEUTIC NUCLEAR MEDICINE	379
OTHER NUCLEAR MEDICINE PROCEDURES.....	381
CHAPTER 14: POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY	383
BRAIN IMAGING	387
PET MYOCARDIAL IMAGING.....	389
PET FOR INFECTION AND INFLAMMATION	393
PET FOR ONCOLOGIC CONDITIONS.....	395
OTHER PET PROCEDURES.....	399
APPENDIX A - IMPORTANT LINKS	401
APPENDIX B - EXCERPTS - NCCI POLICY MANUAL.....	403
CODE INDEX	435

Dental Procedures

PROCEDURE:

Dental procedures are rarely performed outside of a dental office and are usually not covered by Medicare. The x-rays can be of one tooth, a section of teeth, or the entire mouth. More prevalent is the orthopantomogram or Panorex that images all the teeth and the mandible on one film.

CLINICAL INDICATIONS:

bothach, gingivitis, facial trauma, caries, etc

CODES:

PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION	PROCEDURE CODE	APC	WORK RVU
Radiologic examination, teeth; single view	70300	5521	0.10
Radiologic examination, teeth; partial examination, less than full mouth	70310	5523	0.16
Radiologic examination, teeth; full mouth	70320	5523	0.22
Cephalogram, orthodontic	70350	5521	0.17
Orthopantomogram	70355	5521	0.20

CODING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Code bite wing x-rays as a single view. If multiple bite wing x-rays are obtained, this may comprise a partial mouth (70310).

Do not report more than one of the codes in the table for a single encounter for Medicare.

An orthodontic cephalogram (70350) includes measurements. Some payers cover this procedure when cephalometric analysis of the head is performed for sleep apnea patients. Code 70350 includes frontal and lateral views.

4. An orthopantomogram is usually called a panorex, and may be utilized for dental or temporomandibular imaging.

5. At the time of this writing, Medicare will pay for dental services that are an integral part of a covered procedure (e.g., reconstruction of the jaw following injury or for extractions done in preparation for radiation treatment for neoplastic diseases involving the jaw). Medicare will also make payment for oral examinations, but not treatment, preceding kidney transplantation or heart valve replacement under certain circumstances. Such examinations would be covered under Part A if performed by a dentist on the hospital's staff or under Part B if performed by a physician. Closely monitor CMS coverage policies, as this may change.

6. Medicare doesn't cover items and services for the care, treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth or structures directly supporting the teeth (the periodontium, which includes gingivae, dentogingival junction, periodontal membrane, cementum, and the alveolar bone).

Examples of non-covered dental services include, but aren't limited to, the following: routine dental care; extraction of an impacted tooth; dental services performed in connection with excluded services (like to prepare the mouth for dentures) including alveoplasty, dental ridge reconstruction, frenectomy, or removing the torus palatinus; and dental services related to other non-covered services.

REFERENCES:

AMA, *CPT Assistant*, Aug 12:14

MS, Medicare Dental Care, Overview, 11/07/23

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CT of the Breast

PROCEDURE:

3D CT imaging of the breast requires a dedicated CT scanner. The patient lays prone with the breast hanging through an opening in the table. It is claimed to be better than traditional mammography for evaluating breast masses as it is true 3D imaging, not quasi 3D like tomosynthesis. It has superior imaging of dense and/or large breasts and breast imaging on a patient with implants. It does not require compression, so is more comfortable for the patient. The viewing software allows the radiologist to review images in multiple planes and magnify and adjust slice thickness of the images. Areas of concern can also be measured and annotated.

CLINICAL INDICATIONS:

Signs or symptoms of breast disease or abnormal findings on a standard mammogram.

CODES:

PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION	PROC CODE	APC	WORK RVU
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, unilateral; without contrast material	0633T	5522	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, unilateral; with contrast material(s)	0634T	5571	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, unilateral; without contrast, followed by contrast material(s)	0635T	5571	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, bilateral; without contrast material(s)	0636T	5523	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, bilateral; with contrast material(s)	0637T	5572	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, bilateral; without contrast, followed by contrast material(s)	0638T	5572	0.00

CODING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Six category III CPT codes (0633T-0638T) describe breast CT.
2. The codes are differentiated by unilateral and bilateral and by contrast administration.
3. Report codes 0633T, 0634T, and 0635T for unilateral imaging.
4. Report code 0636T for bilateral imaging without contrast, code 0637T for bilateral imaging with contrast, and 0638T for unilateral imaging with and without contrast.
5. Report codes 0636T, 0637T, and 0638T for bilateral imaging.
6. Report code 0636T for bilateral imaging without contrast, code 0637T for bilateral imaging with contrast, and 0638T for bilateral imaging with and without contrast.

7. Report only one code from this series of codes for a single study.
8. **Do not** separately report 3D post-processing (76376, 76377) when performed.
9. **Do not** report CT imaging of the breast(s) with code 76380 or 76497 (unlisted procedure code).

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ACR, *Clinical Examples in Radiology*, Summer 21:3

ACR, *CT Changes: An Insider's View*, 2021

Campbell, J. et al. (2014). Dedicated 3D Breast CT: A Novel Approach to Breast Cancer Detection. *Health Management*, 14(1).

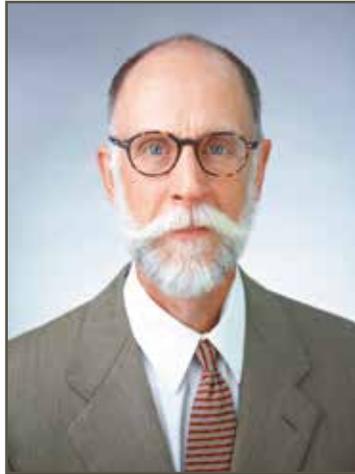
Lindfors, K. et al. (2008). Dedicated Breast CT: Initial Clinical Experience. *Radiology*, 246(3):725-733.

Orenstein, B. (2018). A New Look: Could Breast CT Surpass 2D Mammography or Digital Breast Tomosynthesis for Screening. *Radiology Today*, 19(1):14.

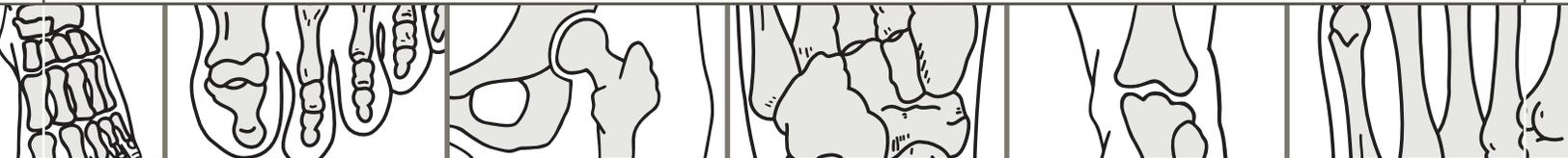
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Code more accurately
Avoid coding compliance problems
Ensure proper reimbursement