

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

ISSUE DATE: August 26, 1985

AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)\(2\)](#) and [\(c\)\(3\)](#)

I. CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

20000 - 22505, 22520 - 22525, 22532 - 22534, 22548 - 28825, 28899 - 29863, 29866, 29867, 29870 - 29999

II. HCPCS CODES

S2360, S2361

III. DESCRIPTION

The musculoskeletal system pertains to or comprises the skeleton and the muscles.

IV. POLICY

A. Services and supplies required in the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury involving the musculoskeletal system are covered. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved surgically implanted devices are also covered.

B. Effective August 25, 1997, autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI) surgery for the repair of clinically significant, symptomatic, cartilaginous defects of the femoral condyle (medial, lateral or trochlear) caused by acute or repetitive trauma is a covered procedure. The autologous cultured chondrocytes must be approved by the FDA.

C. Single or multilevel anterior cervical microdiscectomy with allogenic or autogenic iliac crest grafting and anterior plating is covered for the treatment of cervical spondylosis.

D. Percutaneous vertebroplasty (CPT¹ procedure codes 22520-22522, S2360, S2361) and balloon kyphoplasty (CPT¹ procedure codes 22523-22525) are covered for the treatment of painful osteolytic lesions and osteoporotic compression fractures refractory to conservative medical treatment.

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TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 4, SECTION 6.1

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V. EXCLUSIONS

- A. Meniscal transplant (CPT² procedure code 29868) for meniscal injury is unproven.
- B. Ligament replacement with absorbable copolymer carbon fiber scaffold is unproven.
- C. Prolotherapy, joint sclerotherapy and ligamentous injections with sclerosing agents (HCPCS procedure code M0076) are unproven.
- D. Trigger point injection (CPT² procedure codes 20552, 20553) for migraine headaches.
- E. IDET (Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy) for Chronic Discogenic Pain (CPT² procedure codes 0062T and 0063T) is unproven.
- F. Botox (chemodenervation) for migraine headaches is unproven.
- G. Total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, including discectomy to prepare interspace, cervical; single interspace (CPT² procedure code 0090T) each additional interspace (CPT² procedure code 0092T) is unproven.
- H. Removal of total disc arthroplasty anterior approach cervical; single interspace (0093T) each additional interspace (CPT² procedure code 0095T). Also see [Chapter 4, Section 1.1](#).
- I. Artificial intervertebral disc replacement for degenerative disc disease is unproven (CPT² procedure codes 0090T - 0098T).
- J. Extracorporeal shock wave, high energy involving the plantar fascia (CPT² procedure code 28890).
- K. X STOP Interspinous Process Decompression System for the treatment of neurogenic intermittent claudication secondary to lumbar spinal stenosis is unproven.
- L. Hip core decompression is unproven.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

February 6, 2006, for percutaneous vertebroplasty and balloon kyphoplasty.

- END -

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