

Chapter 4

Section 6.1

Musculoskeletal System

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

1.0 CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

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

2.0 HCPCS CODES

S2325, S2360, S2361

3.0 DESCRIPTION

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

4.0 POLICY

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 Single or multilevel anterior cervical microdiscectomy with allogeneic or autogeneic iliac crest grafting and anterior plating is covered for the treatment of cervical spondylosis.

4.4 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.

4.5 Total Ankle Replacement (TAR) (CPT¹ procedure codes 27702 and 27703) surgery is covered if the device is FDA approved and the use is for an FDA approved indication. However, a medical necessity review is required in case of marked varus or valgus deformity.

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4.6 Core decompression of the femoral head (hip) for early (precollapse stage I or II) avascular necrosis may be considered for cost-sharing.

4.7 Single-level, cervical Total Disc Replacement (TDR) (CPT² procedure code 22856) using an FDA approved cervical artificial intervertebral disc for the treatment of cervical DDD, intractable radiculopathy, and/or myelopathy is covered if the disc is used in accordance with its FDA labeled indications.

4.8 High Energy Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (HE ESWT) for the treatment of plantar fasciitis is covered when all of the following conditions are met:

- Patients have chronic plantar fasciitis of at least six months duration;
- Patients have undergone and failed six months of appropriate conservative therapy; and
- HE ESWT is defined as Energy Flux Density (EFD) greater than 0.12 millijoules per square millimeter (mJ/mm²).

5.0 EXCLUSIONS

5.1 Meniscal transplant (CPT² procedure code 29868) for meniscal injury is unproven.

5.2 Ligament replacement with absorbable copolymer carbon fiber scaffold is unproven.

5.3 Prolotherapy, joint sclerotherapy and ligamentous injections with sclerosing agents (HCPCS procedure code M0076) are unproven.

5.4 Trigger point injection (CPT² procedure codes 20552 and 20553) for migraine headaches.

5.5 Total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, including discectomy with end plate preparation (includes osteophytectomy for nerve root or spinal cord decompression and microdissection), cervical, each additional interspace (CPT² procedure code 0092T) is unproven.

5.6 Removal of total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, cervical, each additional interspace (CPT² procedure code 0095T) is unproven. Also, see [Section 1.1](#).

5.7 Lumbar total disc arthroplasty (lumbar artificial intervertebral disc revision including replacement, lumbar total disc replacement) for degenerative disc disease is unproven (CPT² procedure codes 22857, 22862, 0163T, 0164T, and 0165T).

5.8 Low Energy (LE) or radial ESWT for the treatment of plantar fasciitis is unproven. Any form of ESWT for the treatment of lateral epicondylitis is unproven.

5.9 XSTOP Interspinous Process Decompression System (CPT² procedure codes 0171T and 0172T, HCPCS code C1821) for the treatment of neurogenic intermittent claudication secondary to lumbar spinal stenosis is unproven.

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- 5.10** Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) open surgery, surgical dislocation (CPT³ procedure codes 27140 and 27179), for the treatment of hip impingement syndrome or labral tear is unproven.
- 5.11** Hip arthroscopy with debridement of articular cartilage (CPT³ procedure code 29862) for the treatment of FAI is unproven.
- 5.12** Femoroplasty (CPT³ procedure code 29999) for the treatment of FAI syndrome is unproven.
- 5.13** Osteochondral allograft of the humeral head with meniscal transplant and glenoid microfracture in the treatment of shoulder pain and instability is unproven.
- 5.14** Thermal Intradiscal Procedures (TIPs) (CPT³ procedure codes 22526, 22527, 62287, and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code S2348) are unproven. TIPs are also known as: Intradiscal Electrothermal Annuloplasty (IEA), Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy (IDET), Intradiscal Thermal Annuloplasty (IDTA), Percutaneous Intradiscal Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation (PIRFT), Coblation Percutaneous Disc Decompression, Nucleoplasty (also known as Percutaneous Radiofrequency (RF) Thermomodulation or Percutaneous Plasma Discectomy), Radiofrequency Annuloplasty (RA), Intradiscal Biacuplasty (IDB), Percutaneous (or Plasma) Disc Decompression (PDD), Targeted Disc Decompression (TDD), Cervical Intradiscal RF Lesioning.
- 5.15** Total hip resurfacing (HCPCS code S2118) for treatment of degenerative hip disease is unproven.
- 5.16** Spinal manipulation under anesthesia (CPT³ procedure codes 00640 and 22505) for the treatment of back pain is unproven.
- 5.17** Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (mild®) for the treatment of Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD) and/or spinal stenosis is unproven.
- 5.18** ACI surgery for the repair of patellar cartilage lesions is unproven.
- 5.19** iFuse Implant System (CPT³ procedure code 27279) for treatment of sacroiliac joint pain is unproven.

6.0 EFFECTIVE DATES

- 6.1** February 6, 2006, for percutaneous vertebroplasty and balloon kyphoplasty.
- 6.2** May 1, 2008, for TAR.
- 6.3** May 1, 2008, for core decompression of the femoral head.
- 6.4** December 24, 2012, for single-level, cervical TDR using an FDA approved cervical artificial intervertebral disc.

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6.5 December 2, 2013, for HE ESWT for plantar fasciitis.

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