Insights to Coding and Data Quality

Spinal Surgery Webinar question on Kyphoplasty versus Vertebroplasty

by Monica Leisch, RHIA, CCS, Chair, CDQ Committee

I n November 2013, the CHIA Coding and Data Quality (CDQ) Committee presented the Coding Round Table Webinar titled Spinal Surgery. Several questions were raised during the presentation that will be discussed in a series of articles. This article will address the question of how kyphoplasties and vertebroplasties are coded.

Question

What exactly is the difference between a kyphoplasty and a *vertebroplasty*? Is the inflating of the balloon the only difference?

Answer: Both of these procedures are performed percutaneously to treat compression fractures of the spine. Specificumentation must be present to assign the correct code.

A **kyphoplasty**, also called vertebral augmentation, arcuplasty, skyphoplasty and spineoplasty, is performed by inserting an inflatable balloon, bone tamp, or other device in the spinal area of the fracture. This device is inflated to restore the actual height of the space, and then filled in with bone-void filler or cement, polymethmethacrylate, (PMMA) or another substance. Kyphoplasties are performed when the vertebral body height needs to be restored and is usually done as an in-patient.

A **vertebroplasty** is an injection of bone void filler only and is usually performed as an outpatient.

CPT Codes

22520	thoracic vertebroplasty
22521	lumbar vertebroplasty
22522	each additional thoracic or lumbar body vertebroplasty
22523	thoracic kyphoplasty
22524	lumbar kyphoplasty
22525	each additional thoracic or lumbar body kyphoplasty
0200T	sacral kyphoplasty

ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes

81.65	vertebroplasty
81.66	Kyphoplasty

ICD-10-PCS Codes

ICD-10 PCS has 10 different codes available for the kyphoplasty depending on the spinal location, cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral or coccyx, and whether it is a repositioning or the injection of bone substitute material.

Kyphoplasty

0PS33ZZ	cervical repositioning
OPU33JZ	cervical synthetic substitute
OPS43ZZ	thoracic repositioning

OPU43JZ	thoracic synthetic substitute
OQS03ZZ	lumbar repositioning
OQU03JZ	lumbar synthetic substitute
0QS13ZZ	sacral repositioning
QS13JZ0	sacral synthetic substitute
0QSS3ZZ	coccyx repositioning
0QUS3JZ	coccyx synthetic substitute

Vertebroplasty has eight codes available in ICD-10-PCS, again depending on the spinal location, but also whether the procedure is performed by percutaneous approach or by percutaneous endoscopic approach:

Vertebroplasty

0PU33JZ	cervical percutaneous
0PU34JZ	cervical percutaneous endoscopic
0PU43JZ	thoracic percutaneous
0PU44JZ	thoracic percutaneous endoscopic
0QU03JZ	lumbar percutaneous
0QU04JZ	lumbar percutaneous endoscopic
0QU13JZ	sacral percutaneous
0QU14JZ	sacral percutaneous endoscopic

The CHIA Coding and Data Quality Committee will continue to answer the questions posed at the November 2013 Coding Roundtable Webinar.

Look for more articles coming soon.

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References
*Coding Clinic, **Fourth Quarter 2004,** Page: 125 to 126*
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