Navigating the Road Map of Vascular Families

AAPC Regional Conference
Chicago, IL
October 26, 2012

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National Coding Standards

- Sources of information
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
    • National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)
    • Provider Policy Manual January 1, 2012
  - Medicare Contractor’s LMRPs /LCDs
  - American Medical Association (AMA), CPT and CPT Assistant articles, CPT Changes
  - Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
  - American College of Cardiology (ACC)
  - Other LCDs

General Recommendations For Physician Dictations

- State the history including prior diagnostic studies and medical necessity
- State the vascular access site(s)
- State the vessels catheterized
- State the route of the catheter and the end position
- State the vessels injected and findings of the areas imaged during these contrast injections
- State the interventions performed and any complications/ additional treatments
- State the specific devices and specialty supplies used during the procedure
Vascular Imaging Coding Rules

Four vascular systems that are coded separately
- Arterial
- Venous
- Pulmonary
- Portal

Two Interventional Coding Systems
- Imaging supervision & interpretation (S&I)
  - 70000 Series of CPT
- Procedure performed
  - 10000 – 69999 Series of CPT

Vascular Imaging Coding Rules

Imaging S&I
- Code based on vessel or vascular system imaged (70000 series codes)
- Images that were taken and contributed to the study and were medically necessary
- Hard copies printed or available (PACS)
- Dictation describing the findings (this is mandatory and sometimes a limiting factor)
Vascular Families

- Vessel and all of its branches that originates from
  - Access vessel
  - Aorta
  - Vena cava

Catheter Placement Coding Rules

- Non-selective
  - Vessel entered (femoral, brachial)
  - Aorta or vena cava
  - AV shunt
  - Direct carotid puncture
  - Right heart or main pulmonary artery
  - Portal vein
Catheter Placement Codes

Non-selective codes

- 36005 – Injection for extremity venography
- 36010 – Catheter placement vena cava
- 36013 – Catheter placement main pulmonary artery
- 36100 – Needle/Intracatheter placement carotid artery
- 36120 – Needle/Intracatheter placement retrograde brachial

Catheter Placement Codes

Non-selective codes

- 36140 – Catheter placement extremity artery
- 36147 – Catheter placement AV dialysis shunt, initial- includes imaging
- 36148 – Catheter placement AV dialysis shunt, additional access for therapeutic intervention
- 36160 – Catheter placement aorta, translumbar
- 36200 – Catheter placement aorta
- 36481 – Catheter placement into portal vein
Lower Extremity Arterial Anatomy Right Transfemoral Approach

First order
Second order
Third order
Non-selective
Antegrade Right Femoral Approach
Retrograde Right Femoral Approach

Catheter Placement Coding Rules

▪ Selective
  - A branch off of the vessel entered or a branch off the aorta or vena cava
  - Non-selective catheter placement is included in the selective catheter placement code in all cases
  - Includes lesser order selections in the same vascular family

Catheter Placement Codes

Selective codes

▪ Arteries above the diaphragm
  - 36215 - First order selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36216 – Second order selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36217 – Third order or higher selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36218 – Each additional second order or higher selective catheterization in a vascular family
Catheter Placement Codes

**Selective codes**

- Arteries below the diaphragm
  - 36245 – First order selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36246 – Second order selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36247 – Third order or higher selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36248 – Each additional second order or higher selective catheterization in a vascular family

Catheter Placement Codes

- Code to highest order selection within a vascular family. Use code 36218 or 36248 for each additional selection within the same vascular family.
- Code for each vascular family selected using the same guidelines.
- Code separately for each access using the same guidelines.
Vascular Imaging Coding Rules

Procedures that must be done selectively (requires documentation that catheter placement is in the vessel being imaged)

- External carotid (75660, 75662)
- Renal venous system (75831, 75833)
- Adrenal arteries and venous system (75731, 75733, 75840, 75842)
- Pulmonary arteries - separate codes for selective (75741, 75743) and non-selective (75746)

Vascular Imaging Coding Rules

Additional procedures that must be done selectively

- Selective renal artery angiography
  - First order
    - 36251 unilateral
    - 36252 bilateral
  - Superselective
    - 36253 unilateral
    - 36254 bilateral
- These codes include catheter placement(s), any accessory renal artery(s), contrast injection, imaging, S&I, pressure measurements, and flush aortogram if performed.
Vascular Imaging Coding Rules

Additional procedures that must be done selectively

- Visceral arteries (75726)
- Spinal arteries (75705)
- Pelvic arteries (75736)
- Each additional vessel studied after basic exam (75774)
Catheter Placement Codes

- **Portal System**
  - 36481 – Access to portal vein by any method

- **Venous System**
  - 36011 – First order selective catheterization in a vascular family
  - 36012 – Second order or higher selective catheterization in a vascular family and additional second order or higher selective catheterizations in the same vascular family

Catheter Placement Codes

- **Pulmonary System**
  - 36013 – Right heart or main pulmonary artery
  - 36014 – Left or right pulmonary artery
  - 36015 – Segmental or subsegmental artery and additional segmental or subsegmental arterial catheterizations in the same vascular family
Coding Rules

- Do code to where the tip of the catheter is.
- Do code 36200 (aorta catheter placement) over other non-selective codes (36140, 36120).
- Do code each of the four vascular systems separately: arterial, venous, portal, pulmonary.
- Do code each vascular family separately, using modifiers to distinguish the different vessels.
- Within a vascular system, code catheter placement from each access separately.

Coding Rules

- Do not code for reforming catheters.
- Do not code access site separately (sheath).
- Do not code for where the tip of the wire is.
- Do not code for catheter placement in the aorta (36200) once a selective catheterization has occurred (e.g., renal selective, 36245) unless there has been a separate puncture.
- 70,000 imaging S&I codes include fluoroscopy and ultrasound guidance.
- Do not use -50 modifier for above diaphragm selective catheter placement codes 36215, 36216, or 36217.
Procedures That Include Catheter Placements

- 37182 – Insertion TIPS
- 37183 – Revision of TIPS
- 37215 – Cervical carotid artery stent with distal protection
- 37216 – Cervical carotid artery stent without distal protection
- 0075T – Extracranial vertebral or intrathoracic carotid stent
- 0076T – Extracranial vertebral or intrathoracic stent, each additional vessel
- 36251-36254 – Selective renal angiography (New for 2012)
- 37191-37193 – Insertion, reposition, and retrieval of vena cava filter (New for 2012)

Procedures That Include Catheter Placements

- 37210 – Uterine fibroid embolization
- 61623 – Endovascular temporary balloon occlusion
- 61630 – Balloon angioplasty, intracranial
- 61635 – Intravascular stent(s), intracranial
- 61640 – Balloon dilatation, intracranial vasospasm
- 61641 – Balloon dilatation, each additional vessel - same vascular family
- 61642 – Balloon dilatation, each additional vessel - different vascular family
- Starting in 2011 – New lower extremity revascularization codes 37220 through 37235 include catheter placement and vascular closure device placement and associated imaging.

General Recommendations for Physician Dictations

- State the history including prior diagnostic studies and medical necessity
- State the vascular access site(s)
- State the vessels catheterized
- State the route of the catheter and the end position
- State the vessels injected and findings of the areas imaged during these contrast injections
- State the interventions performed and any complications/ additional treatments
- State the specific devices and specialty supplies used during the procedure
Diagnostic Imaging of the Arterial System

Basic Coding Case 1:
Non-selective bilateral renal arteriogram with catheter placement in aorta.

36200 – Catheter placement in the aorta
75625 – Abdominal aortography, S&I
Basic Coding Case 2:
Unilateral renal arteriogram with catheter placement in main renal artery.

36251 – Unilateral 1st order selection; includes catheter selection, imaging, accessory renal angiography, and pressures, if performed

Basic Coding Case 3:
Bilateral renal arteriogram with catheter placements in 2nd and 3rd order branches.

36254 – Bilateral superselective; includes catheter selection, imaging, accessory renal angiography, and pressures, if performed

Basic Coding Case 4:
Bilateral renal arteriogram with catheter placement in both main renal arteries and three accessory renal arteries.

36252 – Bilateral 1st order selective; includes all accessory renal angiography, catheter selections, imaging, and pressures, if performed
Basic Coding Case 5:
Non-selective catheter placement in the aorta with imaging of the aorta with additional lateral aortogram to better see the origins of the celiac, SMA, and IMA vessels.

36200 – Catheter placement in the aorta
75625 – Abdominal aortography, S&I

Basic Coding Case 6:
Non-selective abdominal aortogram followed by selective catheter placement and imaging of the celiac trunk.

36245 – 1st order selective below the diaphragm
75726 – Selective visceral angiography, S&I
Basic Coding Case 7:
Selection and imaging of the celiac trunk, SMA, and IMA.

36245 – 1st order selective below the diaphragm
36245-59 – 1st order selective below the diaphragm
36245-59 – 1st order selective below the diaphragm
75726 – Selective visceral angiography, S&I
75726-59 – Selective visceral angiography, S&I
75726-59 – Selective visceral angiography, S&I

Basic Coding Case 8:
Abdominal aortography with run-offs from one catheter position.

36200 – Catheter placement aorta
75630 – Abdominal aortogram and iliofemoral run-offs, S&I
Basic Coding Case 9:
Abdominal aortography followed by catheter repositioning to the bifurcation, oblique views of the pelvis for iliofemoral run-off, selective catheter placement to each common femoral with selective unilateral run-offs to complete the study.

36246 – Selective contralateral common femoral catheter placement
75625 – Abdominal aortography
75716 – Bilateral lower extremity run-off

Basic Coding Case 10:
Common femoral antegrade approach with selection and injection of SFA, anterior and posterior tibial, and peroneal arteries for staged unilateral run-off imaging.

36247 – 3rd order selective below the diaphragm
36248 x 2 – Each additional 2nd order or higher selective catheterization
75710 – Unilateral, lower extremity run-off

Basic Coding Case 11:
Right common femoral access followed by aortogram from the renal level. The catheter was pulled back to the bifurcation for a complete bilateral run-off. A left superficial femoral artery stent was placed after a suboptimal angioplasty was performed.

37226 – Revascularization, femoral/popliteal with stent placement(s), includes angioplasty within same vessel when performed
✓ includes catheter selection and vascular closure device if performed
75625-59 – Aortogram
75716-59 – Bilateral extremity angiogram
Basic Coding Case 12:
Right common femoral access followed by selective bilateral renal angiogram. The catheter was pulled back to the bifurcation for a complete bilateral run-off. A left superficial femoral artery stent was placed after a suboptimal angioplasty was performed.

37226 – Revascularization, femoral/popliteal with stent placement(s), includes angioplasty within same vessel when performed
✓ includes catheter selection for stent placement and vascular closure device if performed

36252 – Bilateral 1st order renal selective angiography

75716-59 – Bilateral extremity angiogram
Basic Coding Case 13:
Retrograde brachial.

36120 – Needle/catheter placement retrograde brachial
75658 – Brachial angiography, retrograde

Basic Coding Case 14:
Selective right subclavian angiography from a femoral approach.

36216 – 2nd order selective above the diaphragm
75710 – Unilateral extremity angiography, S&I

Basic Coding Case 15:
Selective bilateral subclavian angiography from a femoral approach.

36215-59 – 1st order selective above the diaphragm
36216 – 2nd order selective above the diaphragm
75716 – Bilateral extremity angiography, S&I
Basic Coding Case 16:
Arch injection with cervicocerebral arch imaging.

36200 – Catheter placement aorta
75650 – Arch aortogram S&I
Basic Coding Case 17:
Selective bilateral carotid cervical and carotid cerebral imaging with selective left vertebral imaging.

36215-59 – 1st order selective above diaphragm
36216-59 – 2nd order selective above diaphragm
36216 – 2nd order selective above diaphragm
75680 – Bilateral cervical carotid angiogram, S&I
75671 – Bilateral cerebral carotid angiogram, S&I
75685 – Vertebral angiogram, S&I

Basic Coding Case 18:
Selective bilateral carotid cervical and carotid cerebral imaging with selective right vertebral catheter placement and imaging, bovine arch.

36218 – Each additional selective above diaphragm
36218 – Each additional selective above diaphragm
36217 – 3rd order selective above diaphragm
75680 – Bilateral cervical carotid angiogram, S&I
75671 – Bilateral cerebral carotid angiogram, S&I
75685 – Vertebral angiogram, S&I
Basic Coding Case 19:
Inferior vena cavagram via catheter placement in the vena cava.

36010 – Catheter placement vena cava
75825 – Inferior vena cavagram, S&I

Basic Coding Case 20:
Inferior vena cavagram and selective bilateral renal venogram.

36011-50 – 1st order selective, venous
75825 – Inferior vena cavagram, S&I
75833 – Bilateral renal venogram, S&I
Basic Coding Case 21:
Main pulmonary artery catheter placement and imaging.

36013 – Catheter placement main pulmonary artery
75746 – Pulmonary angiogram, non-selective, S&I

Basic Coding Case 22:
Selective right and left main pulmonary artery catheter placement and imaging.

36014-50 – Catheter placement segmental / subsegmental pulmonary artery
75743 – Bilateral pulmonary angiogram, S&I
Basic Coding Case 23:
Bilateral lower extremity venograms from foot or popliteal injections.

36005-50 – Needle placement extremity vein
75822 – Bilateral extremity venogram, S&I

Basic Coding Case 24:
Unilateral upper extremity venography from a femoral approach.

36011 or 36012 – 1st or 2nd order selective venous
75820 – Unilateral extremity venogram, S&I
Portal and Hepatic Venous Anatomy

- 36481 – Access to portal vein by any method
- 75885 – Portal venography with pressures
- 75887 – Portal venography without pressures
- 36011 or 36012 – 1st or 2nd order venous
- 75889 – Hepatic venography with pressures
- 75891 – Hepatic venography without pressures
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Oblique Pelvic Anatomy
Contralateral Femoral or Brachial Approach

External Carotid Artery Anatomy
Transfemoral Approach

Cerebral Venous Anatomy - Transfemoral Approach