

Frequently Asked Questions in OB/GYN Coding



Neurology & Pain Management Coding Alert

Your practical adviser for ethically optimizing coding, payment, and efficiency in neurology and pain management practices

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Remember, not all cranial nerves have their own ICD-10s.

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Procedure Coding

Keep Up with Laterality Rules on Chemodenervation

Experts: Code extremity-specific chemodenervation with different codes.

When you code for your physician's chemodenervation services, you'll need to know the area that she treated and the specific muscles on which she performed the procedure.

Don't stop there: If the physician performs chemodenervation on both sides for a patient, your coding will depend on whether you can append modifier 50 (*Bilateral procedure*) to a code. Your coding will change even further if the physician performs chemodenervation on a patient's extremities or trunk muscles.

Read on for some extra advice on what to do when chemodenervation coding gets more complicated.

Report Base Codes, Modifier 50 Where Appropriate

For services involving chemodenervation of a somatic nerve, you will choose from one of the following codes, depending on encounter specifics, confirms **Amy Turner, RN, BSN, MMHC, CPC**, Director of Revenue Integrity at Comprehensive Pain Specialists in Brentwood, Tenn.:

- » 64611, *Chemodenervation of parotid and submandibular salivary glands, bilateral*
- » 64612, *Chemodenervation of muscle(s); muscle(s) innervated by facial nerve, unilateral (e.g., for blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm)*
- » 64615, ... *muscle(s) innervated by facial, trigeminal, cervical spinal and accessory nerves, bilateral (e.g., for chronic migraine)*
- » 64616, ... *neck muscle(s), excluding muscles of the larynx, unilateral (e.g., for cervical dystonia, spasmodic torticollis)*
- » 64617, ... *larynx, unilateral, percutaneous (e.g., for spasmodic dysphonia), includes guidance by needle electromyography, when performed*

When your physician performs chemodenervation on both sides of the same patient, you'll need to check the CPT® book for bilateral indications, Turner explains. Check out this rundown of codes that are, and are not, eligible for coding with modifier 50:

- » **Bilateral, no modifier 50:** The following chemodenervation codes are bilateral, meaning you can only report them once per session: 64611 and 64615. So, if the physician performs bilateral chemodenervation on a patient's right and left parotid salivary glands, you'd report 64611 once for the encounter.
- » **Unilateral, modifier 50 eligible:** These chemodenervation codes are unilateral, meaning they are eligible for modifier 50 coding when encounter

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