

mcp newsletter

March 29, 2023

23-05

TO: ALL FEE-FOR-SERVICE ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

RE: NEW FEE CODES FOR PAIN MEDICINE PROCEDURES

In consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA), the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) has introduced a suite of new fee codes for the following procedures for the treatment of chronic pain:

- Cervical epidural injections;
- Vertebral facet injections;
- Sacroiliac joint injections; and
- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) or rhizotomy.

With the exception of vertebral facet and sacral lateral branch RFA, all new fee codes are located under “Organized Pain Clinic” in the In-Hospital Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services section of the MCP Medical Payment Schedule.

These fee codes are restricted to Royal College certified Anaesthesiologists with Pain Medicine fellowships. However, other fee-for-service Anaesthesiologists with comparable training and/or expertise may be considered for billing eligibility for vertebral facet and sacroiliac joint injections in consultation with the VP of Medical Services.

In addition to the introduction of new fee codes, a change in the description of fee codes 57800 (“Epidural steroid injection”), 98700 and 98702 (“Percutaneous lumbar rhizotomy or neurectomy”) were required to accommodate these new services. Please see the relevant sections below for further information.

PERCUTANEOUS EPIDURAL INJECTIONS IN ORGANIZED HOSPITAL PAIN CLINICS (FEE CODE 57800)

The description of fee code 57800 (“Epidural steroid Injection”) will be changed to “Percutaneous epidural injections” as below. However, the rate of payment for fee code 57800 will not change.

In addition to the highlighted wording change below, a new “add-on” fee code to support payment for **cervical epidural injection** is available to Royal College certified Anaesthesiologists with Pain Medicine fellowships who are providing these services in approved organized hospital pain clinics. These changes are effective for services provided April 1, 2022.

57800	Percutaneous epidural injections	105.15
57801	Cervical epidural injection.....add	88.92

PERCUTANEOUS DENERVATION OF SENSORY NERVE(S) USING RFA OR RHIZOTOMY

Please see the following three new fee codes for percutaneous denervation of sensory nerve(s) using RFA or rhizotomy. These fee codes are available to Royal College certified Anaesthesiologists with Pain Medicine fellowships who are providing these services in approved organized hospital pain clinics.

Percutaneous denervation of sensory nerve(s) using radiofrequency ablation or rhizotomy:

57830	Single nerve	126.18
57832	Multiple nerves, same side	252.36
57834	Multiple nerves, different sides	358.29

Notes:

- 1) Fee codes 57830, 57832, and 57834 are restricted to Anaesthesiologists with Royal College certification in Pain Medicine.
- 2) Services billed using fee codes 57830, 57832, and 57834 must be performed with medical imaging guidance.
- 3) Fee codes 57830, 57832, and 57834 include services associated with medical imaging guidance, anaesthesia, sedation, and blocks (including fees associated with alcohol or other sclerosing solutions) if performed by the same physician.

Fee codes 57830 and 57832 are effective April 1, 2023. Physicians may apply for adjustment of any claims billed for RFA services for multiple sensory nerves on different sides (fee code 57834) retroactive to April 1, 2022. Physicians wishing to have claims adjusted for these services delivered April 1, 2022 onward should prepare a written request including the date, provider number, claim and item numbers to be adjusted. This request should be faxed to the Claims Processing Department at 709-292- 4053.

VERTEBRAL FACET AND SACROILIAC JOINT INJECTIONS WITH FLUOROSCOPIC GUIDANCE

The following four new fee codes for vertebral facet and sacroiliac joint injections with fluoroscopic guidance were effective for billing December 1, 2021. These fee codes are available to Royal College certified Anaesthesiologists with Pain Medicine fellowships. However, other fee-for-service anaesthesiologists with comparable training and/or expertise may be considered for billing eligibility in consultation with the VP of Medical Services. These services require fluoroscopic guidance.

	Sacroiliac Joint Injections with Fluoroscopic Guidance	
57818	- Unilateral	87.88
57820	- Bilateral	142.11

	Vertebral Facet Injection: Percutaneous Injection with Fluoroscopic Guidance	
57822	– First Site (Maximum of 1 unit per patient per day and 6 units per patient per year).....	70.71
57824	– Each Additional Site (Maximum of 7 units per patient per day and 42 units per patient per year).....	37.20

VERTEBRAL FACET OR SACRAL LATERAL BRANCH RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION/NEUROTOMY

The following language and rate changes to fee codes 98700 and 98702 of the Surgical Procedures: Operations on the Nervous System: Spinal Cord and Nerve Roots section of the MCP Medical Payment Schedule were made in January of 2022 to apply to RFA services provided by Royal College certified Anaesthesiologists with Pain Medicine fellowships.

	Radiofrequency ablation/Rhizotomy (IOP)	
98700	- vertebral facet or sacral lateral branch neurotomy, first site	128.37
98702	- each additional site (to a max. of 4 additional sites)add	83.96

Questions relating to the content of this newsletter should be directed to Dr. Colleen Crowther, Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1557 or by email at ColleenCrowther@gov.nl.ca