

Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies

Prepared by
Stacie L. Buck, RHIA, CCS-P, RCC, CIRCC, AAPC Fellow
President & Senior Consultant

Week of November 26, 2018

Hemodialysis Catheter Replacement & Fibrin Sheath Removal

INDICATION: A 64-year-old male with chronic renal failure on hemodialysis through a long dwelling tunneled right subclavian catheter, in place over 3 years. Poor flow and adequacy in dialysis. Known occluded internal jugular and left subclavian veins.

OPERATIONS:

1. Right dialysis catheter removal.
2. Limited superior vena cavagram.
3. Balloon angioplasty of the fibrin sheath.
4. Dialysis catheter replacement.

CONTRAST: Isovue 370, 20 ml.

MEDICATIONS: Fentanyl 100 mcg IV.

FLUOROSCOPY TIME: 3.1 minutes.

PROCEDURE: After PARQ conference was held and informed consent obtained, the patient was placed supine on the angio-table and the right upper chest and existing catheter prepped and draped in sterile fashion. Skin and subcutaneous tissues around the catheter exit were anesthetized with 1% buffered lidocaine. Stiff guidewires were passed through each port and the catheter removed. A 9-French sheath was placed. through this, a hand injection of contrast was performed for inferior vena cavagram. A 12 x 40 mm balloon was then passed and serial balloon angioplasty performed throughout the length of the fibrin sheath. A new 15.5 French, 23 cm tip-to-cuff catheter was replaced over the wires, which were removed. The catheter was flushed with saline and citrate and capped. The catheter was secured to the skin with 2-0 nylon and a sterile dressing applied. The patient tolerated the procedure well without any immediate complications and was transferred back to the recovery area in stable condition for observation.

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FINDINGS: There is a recurrent fibrin sheath around the catheter. There appear to be significant stenosis in the proximal superior vena cava at the junction of the brachiocephalic veins. Final catheter tip position is at the cavoatrial junction.

IMPRESSION: Exchange of right subclavian tunneled hemodialysis catheter following balloon angioplasty of extensive fibrin sheath around the old catheter site.

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Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies CPT Codes

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Hemodialysis Catheter Replacement & Fibrin Sheath Removal

Procedure Codes:

- 36581 Replacement of tunneled dialysis catheter
- 77001 Fluoroscopic guidance for replacement of dialysis catheter
- Q9967 x20 LOCM 300-399 MG/ML

Diagnosis Codes:

- T82.868A CVC thrombosis or fibrin sheath
- N18.9 Chronic renal failure

Comments:

- Code 36581 is assigned for a replacement of a tunneled centrally inserted hemodialysis catheter.
- The IVC gram is bundled with the replacement code.
- Fibrin sheath removal is now bundled with the replacement code. *See applicable coding rules below for additional detail.*
- Code +77001 is assigned for fluoroscopic guidance.
- *Drugs and supplies are billed by the facility performing the procedure and should not be assigned for professional fee coding.*

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Applicable Coding Rules:

Central Venous Access Device Replacement

- Replacement is an exchange of an entire device through same venous access site. The catheter and device are removed over a wire and new ones are placed at the access site.
- Code 36581 describes the complete exchange of a tunneled centrally inserted catheter without a port or pump, through the same venous access.
- Both fluoroscopic guidance (+77001) and ultrasound guidance (+76937) may be assigned with the replacement codes when all documentation requirements are met.
 - ❖ Code +77001 includes fluoroscopic guidance for vascular access and catheter manipulation, any necessary contrast injections through access site or catheter with related venography radiologic supervision and interpretation, and radiographic documentation of final catheter position.
 - Do not use +77001 in conjunction with +77002.
 - If formal extremity venography is performed from separate venous access and separately interpreted, use 36005 and 75820, 75822, 75825, or 75827.
- Codes 36595 and 75901 are assigned when obstructive material is removed outside of catheter to disrupt or remove a fibrin sheath. A fibrin sheath is a heterogeneous mixture of cells and debris that form around the tips of catheters. A fibrin sheath disruption with a balloon catheter is not coded as an angioplasty.
 - ❖ Note that code 36595 and 75901 is for removal of a fibrin sheath via a separate venous access. However, fibrin sheath removal may also be performed at the same time as a tunneled catheter is exchanged, so this is through an existing access. Historically, the Society of Interventional Radiology instructed to append modifier -52 to 36595 and 75901 when performed through an existing access, ***however an NCCI edit was added July 2018 for these codes when performed with a catheter exchange. Based on the NCCI edit, it is not recommended that the fibrin sheath removal be coded unless performed in a separate session on the same date of service.***

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