Payment Policies for Healthcare Services
Provided to Injured Workers and Crime Victims

Chapter 16: Medication Administration and Injections

Effective July 1, 2017

Link: Look for possible updates and corrections to these payment policies at:
www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Billing/FeeSched/2017/

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Definitions

- **Bundled codes**: Are procedure codes that are not separately payable because they are accounted for and included in the payment of other procedure codes and services.
  
  **Link**: For the legal definition of Bundled codes see: [WAC 296-20-01002](#).

- **By report (BR)**: A code listed in the fee schedule as “BR” doesn’t have an established fee because the service is too unusual, variable, or new. When billing for the code, the provider must provide a report that defines or describes the services or procedures. The insurer will determine an appropriate fee based on the report.
  
  **Link**: For the legal definition of By report, see: [WAC 296-20-01002](#).

- **CPT® and HCPCS code modifiers mentioned in this chapter**:
  
  - **–25**: Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management (E/M) service by the same physician on the day of a procedure
    
    Payment is made at 100% of the fee schedule level or billed charge, whichever is less.

  - **–LT**: Left side
    
    Although this modifier doesn’t affect payment, it should be used when billing for bilateral services. This will help reduce duplicate bills and minimize payment delays.

  - **–RT**: Right side
    
    Although this modifier doesn’t affect payment, it should be used when billing for bilateral services. This will help reduce duplicate bills and minimize payment delays.
Payment policy: Botulinum toxin (BTX)

Prior authorization

The insurer covers a maximum of two courses of botulinum toxin injections per worker (except for catastrophic injuries) for FDA indications with prior authorization.

Note: Catastrophic injuries, in which significant recovery of physical function isn’t expected, are exempt from the two course limit and the requirement of meaningful improvement in function. A maximum of four courses of injections may be authorized per year.

Link: For prior authorization criteria and coverage decision information, go to: [www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/botulinumtoxin.asp](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/botulinumtoxin.asp).

Requirements for billing

Billing codes

Refer to the fee schedule for current fees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the injection is…</th>
<th>Then the appropriate HCPCS billing code is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onabotulinumtoxin A, 1 unit (Botox® or Botox Cosmetic®)</td>
<td>J0585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abobotulinumtoxin A, 5 units (Dysport®)</td>
<td>J0586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rimabotulinumtoxin B, 100 units (Myobloc®)</td>
<td>J0587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incobotulinumtoxin A, 1 unit (Xeomin®)</td>
<td>J0588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Services that aren’t covered

The insurer won’t authorize payment for BTX injections for off label indications.
Payment policy: Compound drugs

Prior authorization

All compounded drug products require prior authorization. Failure to seek authorization before compounding will risk nonpayment of compounded products.

Compounded drug products include, but aren’t limited to:

- Antibiotics for intravenous therapy,
- Pain cocktails for opioid weaning, and
- Topical preparations containing multiple active ingredients or any noncommercially available preparations.

Link: For more information, see the department’s coverage policy on compound drugs, available at: [www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDec/Compounded.asp](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDec/Compounded.asp).

Services that aren’t covered

Compounded topical preparations containing multiple active ingredients aren’t covered. There are many commercially available, FDA approved alternatives, on the Outpatient Drug Formulary such as:

- Oral generic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs,
- Muscle relaxants,
- Tricyclic antidepressants,
- Gabapentin, and
- Topical salicylate and capsaicin creams.

Requirements for billing

Compounded drug products must be billed by pharmacy providers on the Statement for Compound Prescription with national drug code (NDCs or UPCs if no NDC is available) for each ingredient.

Payment limits

No separate payment will be made for 99070 (Supplies and materials).
Payment policy: Hyaluronic acid for osteoarthritis of the knee

Prior authorization

Hyaluronic acid injections are only allowed for osteoarthritis of the knee. Other uses are considered experimental, and therefore will not be paid.

Link: For more information about treatments that aren’t authorized, see: WAC 296-20-03002(6).

For authorization, the correct side of body HCPCS billing code modifier (–RT or –LT) is required. If bilateral procedures are required, both modifiers must be authorized.

Requirements for billing

CPT® code 20610 must be billed for hyaluronic acid injections along with and the appropriate HCPCS code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the injection is…</th>
<th>Then the appropriate HCPCS billing code is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyalgan or Supartz</td>
<td>J7321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hymovis</td>
<td>J7322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euflexxa</td>
<td>J7323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthovisc</td>
<td>J7324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synvisc or Synvisc-1</td>
<td>J7325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gel-One</td>
<td>J7326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monovisc</td>
<td>J7327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gel-Syn</td>
<td>J7328</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The correct side of body HCPCS code billing modifier (–RT or –LT) is required for billing. If bilateral procedures are authorized, both modifiers must be billed as a separate line item. Refer to the fee schedule for current fees.
Additional information: Hyaluronic acid injections

Link: For more information about hyaluronic acid injections, see:

www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/HyalVisco.asp
Payment policy: Immunizations

› Prior authorization

Immunization materials are payable when authorized.

› Services that can be billed

CPT® codes 90471 and 90472 are payable, in addition to the immunization materials code(s).

For each additional immunization given, add on CPT® code 90472 may be billed.

› Payment limits

E/M codes aren’t payable in addition to the immunization administration service, unless the E/M service is:

• Performed for a separately identifiable purpose, and
• Billed with a –25 modifier.

› Additional information: Bloodborne pathogens and infectious diseases

Link: For more information on bloodborne pathogens, see: www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/PEP/ For more information about work related exposure to an infectious disease, see: WAC 296-20-03005.
Payment policy: Immunotherapy

- **Services that aren't covered**
  Complete service codes aren't paid.

- **Requirements for billing**
  Professional services for the supervision and provision of antigens for allergen immunotherapy must be billed as component services. The provider bills:
  - One of the injection codes, and
  - One of the antigen/antigen preparation codes.
Payment policy: Infusion therapy services and supplies for RBRVS providers

Prior authorization

Regardless of who performs the service, prior authorization is required for any scheduled or ongoing infusion therapy services (including supplies) performed in the office, clinic, or home.

**Note:** An exception is outpatient services, which are allowed without prior authorization when medically necessary to treat urgent or emergent care situations that arise in an office or clinic. (See Services that can be billed, below.)

With prior authorization, the insurer may cover:

- Implantable infusion pumps and supplies,
- The implantation of epidural or intrathecal catheters, including their revision, repositioning, replacement, or removal, *and*
- Antispasticity medications by any indicated route of administration when spinal cord injury is an accepted condition (for example, some benzodiazepines, baclofen).

Services that can be billed

Urgent and emergent outpatient services

Outpatient services are allowed when medically necessary to treat urgent or emergent care situations that arise in an office or clinic. The following CPT® codes are payable to physicians, ARNPs, and PAs:

- 96360,
- 96361, *and*
- 96365-96368.
Supplies

Implantable infusion pumps and supplies that may be covered with prior authorization include these HCPCS codes:

- A4220,
- E0782 – E0783, and
- E0785 – E0786.

Placement of non-implantable epidural or subarachnoid catheters for single or continuous injection of medications is covered.

Services that aren’t covered

Intrathecal and epidural infusions of any substance other than anesthetic or contrast material aren’t covered with the following exceptions for accepted conditions:

- To treat pain caused by cancer or other end-stage diseases, or
- To administer anti-spasticity drugs when spinal cord injury is an accepted condition.

Link: For more information, see: WAC 296-20-03002.

Requirements for billing

Equipment and supplies

Durable medical equipment (DME) providers may bill for equipment and supplies required to provide authorized IV infusion therapy under their L&I DME provider account numbers.

If rental or purchase of an infusion pump is medically necessary to treat a patient in the home, refer to the payment policy for Home infusion services in Chapter 11: Home Health Services for more information.

Link: For information on home infusion therapy in general, see the Home infusion services section of Chapter 11: Home Health Services.
Note: Billing instructions for non-pharmacy providers are detailed in the Payment policy for “Injectable medications (the next section of this chapter).

Drugs
Drugs for outpatient use must be billed by pharmacy providers, either electronically through the point of service (POS) system or on appropriate pharmacy forms (Statement for Pharmacy Services, Statement for Compound Prescription or Statement for Miscellaneous Services) with national drug codes (NDCs or UPCs if no NDC is available).

Note: Total parenteral and enteral nutrition products are exceptions and may be billed by home health providers using the appropriate HCPCS codes.

▶ Payment limits

E/M office visits
Providers will be paid for E/M office visits in conjunction with infusion therapy only if the services provided meet the code definitions.

Opiates
Infusion of any opiates and their derivatives (natural, synthetic or semisynthetic) aren’t covered unless they are:

- Part of providing anesthesia, or
- Short term postoperative pain management (up to 48 hours post discharge), or
- Medically necessary in emergency situations.

Link: For more information, see: WAC 296-20-03014.

Equipment and supplies
Infusion therapy supplies and related DME, such as infusion pumps, aren’t separately payable for RBRVS providers. Payment for these items is bundled into the fee for the professional service).
Note: See definition of bundled in Definitions at the beginning of this chapter.

Diagnostic injections

Intravenous or intra-arterial therapeutic or diagnostic injection codes, CPT® codes 96373 and 96374, won’t be paid separately in conjunction with the IV infusion codes.
Payment policy: Injectable medications

Requirements for billing

Providers must use the HCPCS J codes for injectable drugs that are administered during an E/M office visit or other procedure.

Note: The HCPCS J codes aren’t intended for self-administered medications.

When billing for a nonspecific injectable drug, the following must be noted on the bill and documented in the medical record:

- Name,
- NDC,
- Strength,
- Dosage, and
- Quantity of drug administered.

Although L&I’s maximum fees for injectable medications are based on a percentage of AWP and the drug strengths listed in the HCPCS manual, providers must bill their acquisition cost for the drugs. To get the total billable units, divide the:

- Total strength of the injected drug, by
- The strength listed in the manual.

For example:

- You administer a 100 mg injection.
- The HCPCS manual lists the strength as 10 mg.
- Your billable units are 100 mg (administered) divided by 10 mg (strength) = 10 units.

Payment limits

Payment is made according to the published fee schedule amount, or the acquisition cost for the covered drug(s), whichever is less.
**Payment policy: Medical foods and co-packs**

- **Services that aren’t covered**

  Medical food products and their convenience packs or “co-packs” aren’t covered.

  Examples of medical food products include:
  
  - Deplin® (L-methylfolate), *and*
  
  - Theramine® (arginine, glutamine, 5-hydroxytryptophan, and choline).

  Examples of “co-packs” include:
  
  - Theraproxen® (Theramine and naproxen), *and*
  
  - Gaboxetine® (Gabadone and fluoxetine).

  **Link:** For more information, see the department’s coverage policy on Medical foods and co-packs, available at: [www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDoc/MedicalFood.asp](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDoc/MedicalFood.asp).

- **Payment limits**

  Medical foods and co-packs administered or dispensed during office procedures are considered *bundled* in the office visit.

  No separate payment will be made for 99070 (Supplies and materials), which is a *bundled* code.

  **Note:** See the definition of *bundled* in Definitions at the beginning of this chapter.
Payment policy: Non-injectable medications

Services that can be billed

Providers may use distinct HCPCS J codes that describe specific non-injectable medication administered during office procedures.

- Separate payment will be made for medications with distinct J codes.

Note: The HCPCS J codes aren’t intended for self-administered medications.

Services that aren’t covered

No payment will be made for:

- Pharmaceutical samples,
- Repackaged drugs.

Requirements for billing

Providers must bill their acquisition cost for these drugs.

The name, NDC, strength, dosage, and quantity of the drug administered must be documented in the medical record and noted on the bill.

Link: For more information, see the payment policy for Acquisition cost in Chapter 28: Supplies, Materials, and Bundled Services.

Payment limits

Miscellaneous oral or non-injectable medications administered or dispensed during office procedures are considered bundled in the office visit. No separate payment will be made for these medications:

- A9150 (Nonprescription drug), or
- J3535 (Metered dose inhaler drug), or
- J7599 (Immunosuppressive drug, NOS), or
- J7699 (Noninhalation drug for DME), or
• J8498 (Antiemetic drug, rectal/suppository, NOS), or
• J8499 (Oral prescription drug non-chemo), or
• J8597 (Antiemetic drug, oral, NOS), or
• J8999 (Oral prescription drug chemo).

⚠️ **Note:** See the definition of *bundled* in Definitions at the beginning of this chapter.
**Payment policy: Spinal injections**

- **Payment methods**

  - **Physician or CRNA/ARNP**
    
    The payment methods for physician or CRNA/ARNP are:
    
    - Injection procedure: —26 component of Professional Services Fee Schedule, *and*
    - Radiology procedure: —26 component of Professional Services Fee Schedule

  - **Note:** A separate payment for the injection **won't be made** when computed tomography is used for imaging unless documentation demonstrating medical necessity is provided.

- **Radiology facility payment methods**

  The payment methods for radiology facilities are:

  - Injection procedure: No facility payment, *and*
  - Radiology procedure: —TC component of Professional Services Fee Schedule.

- **Hospital payment methods**

  The payment methods for hospitals are:

  - Injection procedure: APC or POAC (payment method depends on the payer and/or the hospital’s classification), *and*
  - Radiology procedure: APC, POAC or —TC component of Professional Services Fee Schedule.

  - **Note:** Radiology codes may be packaged with the injection procedure.

- **Link:** See the Professional Services Fee Schedule at: [http://feeschedules.Lni.wa.gov](http://feeschedules.Lni.wa.gov).
Payment policy: Therapeutic or diagnostic injections

Prior authorization

Required

These services require prior authorization:

- Trigger point injections and dry needling (refer to guideline for limits), and
- Sympathetic nerve blocks (refer to the CRPS guideline).

Note: See the definition of dry needling in Definitions at the beginning of this chapter.

Links: For guidelines on trigger point and dry needling injections, see:

For CRPS guidelines, see:
www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/ComplexRegionalPain.asp.

Required along with utilization review

These services require both prior authorization and utilization review:

- Therapeutic epidural and spinal injections for chronic pain,
- Therapeutic sacroiliac joint injections for chronic pain,
- Diagnostic facet and medial branch block injections (refer to neurotomy guideline).

Links: For the coverage decision and guidelines on spinal injections, see:

For the neurotomy guidelines, see:

For the coverage decision on discography, see:
Services that can be billed

These services can be billed without prior authorization:

- E/M office visit services provided on the same day as an injection may be payable if the services are separately identifiable,

- Professional services associated with therapeutic or diagnostic injections (CPT® code 96372) are payable along with the appropriate HCPCS J code for the drug,

- Intra-arterial and intravenous diagnostic and therapeutic injection services (CPT® codes 96373 and 96374) may be billed separately and are payable if they aren’t provided in conjunction with IV infusion therapy services (CPT® codes 96360, 96361, 96365-96368), and

- Spinal injections that don’t require fluoroscopy or CT guidance:
  - CPT® code 62270 – diagnostic lumbar puncture,
  - CPT® code 62272 – therapeutic spinal puncture for drainage of CSF, and
  - CPT® code 62273 – epidural injection of blood or clot patch.

Services that aren’t covered

CPT® code 99211 won’t be paid separately.

⚠️ Note: If billed with the injection code, providers will be paid only the E/M service and the appropriate HCPCS J code for the drug.

The insurer doesn’t cover acupuncture services.

🔗 Links: For more information about the coverage decision for acupuncture services, see: WAC 296-20-03002(2) and: www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/Acupuncture.asp.

The insurer doesn’t cover:

- Therapeutic medial branch nerve block injections, or
- Therapeutic or diagnostic intradiscal injections, or
- Therapeutic facet injections, or
• Diagnostic sacroiliac joint injections.

**Links:** For more information about these injections, see: [www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/SpinalInjections.asp](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/SpinalInjections.asp).

### Requirements for billing

#### Dry needling

Dry needling of trigger points must be billed using CPT® codes 20552 and 20553.  
The coverage decision for dry needling can be found at: [www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/Dryneedling.asp](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/Dryneedling.asp)

#### Spinal injections that require fluoroscopy

For spinal injection procedures that require fluoroscopy:

- One fluoroscopy code must be billed along with the underlying procedure code or the bill for the underlying procedure will be denied, _and_

- Only one fluoroscopy code may be billed for each injection (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Only one of these CPT® fluoroscopy codes may be billed for each injection ...</th>
<th>... and it must be billed along with this underlying CPT® code:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77002, 77012, 76942</td>
<td>62268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77002, 77012, 76942</td>
<td>62269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77003, 72275</td>
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<td>77003, 72275</td>
<td>62282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77003, 77012, 76942, 72240, 72255, 72265, 72270</td>
<td>62284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72295</td>
<td>62290</td>
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<tr>
<td>72285</td>
<td>62291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72295</td>
<td>62292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spinal injection procedures that include fluoroscopy, ultrasound, or CT in the code description

Paravertebral facet joint injections now include fluoroscopic, ultrasound, or CT guidance as part of the description. This includes these CPT® codes:

- 64479-64480, and
- 64483-64484, and
- 64490-64495, and
- 0213T-0218T, and
- 0228T-0231T.

![Note:](image) Fluoroscopic, ultrasound, or CT guidance can't be billed separately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT® fluoroscopy codes</th>
<th>CPT® code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77002, 77003, 77012, 75705</td>
<td>62294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77003, 72275</td>
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<td>62318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77003, 72275</td>
<td>62319</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Links: Related topics

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<tr>
<td>Compound drugs coverage decision</td>
<td>L&amp;I’s website: <a href="http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDec/Compounded.asp">www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDec/Compounded.asp</a></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Hyaluronic acid injections</strong></td>
<td>L&amp;I’s website: <a href="http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/hyalVisco.asp">www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/hyalVisco.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical coverage decision for acupuncture</td>
<td>WAC 296-20-03002(2) and L&amp;I’s website: <a href="http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/Acupuncture.asp">www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/ByCondition/Acupuncture.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical foods and co-packs coverage decision</strong></td>
<td>L&amp;I’s website: <a href="http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDec/MedicalFood.asp">www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/TreatingPatients/Presc/Policy/SpecCovDec/MedicalFood.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Payment policies for acquisition cost policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

▶ **Need more help?** Call L&I’s Provider Hotline at **1-800-848-0811**