

# Coding Clarification: Reporting Code 64640 for Cryoneurolysis

There has been confusion recently regarding Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code 64640, *Destruction by neurolytic agent; other peripheral nerve or branch*, and its applicability for reporting cryoneurolysis. A comprehensive review of the guidance published in *CPT® Assistant*, as well as requests for advice through the CPT Knowledge Base on this code, highlighted response variations. Upon review, the *CPT Assistant®* Editorial Board provided clarified guidance regarding the use of this code. The heading and parentheticals relating to code 64640 are available on page 438 of *CPT® 2019 Professional*:

## Destruction by Neurolytic Agent (eg, Chemical, Thermal, Electrical or Radiofrequency), Chemodenervation

Codes 64600-64681 include the injection of other therapeutic agents (eg, corticosteroids). Do not report diagnostic/therapeutic injections separately. Do not report a code labeled as destruction when using therapies that are not destructive of the target nerve (eg, pulsed radiofrequency), use 64999. For codes labeled as chemodenervation, the supply of the chemodenervation agent is reported separately.

(For chemodenervation of internal anal sphincter, use 46505)

(For chemodenervation of the bladder, use 52287)

(For chemodenervation for strabismus involving the extraocular muscles, use 67345)

(For chemodenervation guided by needle electromyography or muscle electrical stimulation, see 95873, 95874)

Also, the addition of Category III codes 0440T-0442T in 2017, which address percutaneous cryoablation with

imaging guidance, generated additional questions regarding the applicability of code 64640 (see codes 0440T-0442T and their descriptors):

<b>0440T</b>	Ablation, percutaneous, cryoablation, includes imaging guidance; upper extremity distal/peripheral nerve
<b>0441T</b>	lower extremity distal/peripheral nerve
<b>0442T</b>	nerve plexus or other truncal nerve (eg, brachial plexus, pudendal nerve)

To reduce confusion, note the following two points of revised, clarified guidance regarding the use of code 64640:

1. **Cryoneurolysis may be reported with CPT code 64640.** As with all CPT code selections, the appropriate use of code 64640 is predicated on the requisite review and judgment in determining whether criteria needed for the reporting of this procedure have been met; these include guidance related to codes 64600-64681, such as specific nerves to be addressed. A similar review and judgement of criteria should be applied in determining the applicability of Category III codes.
2. **Previous guidance to report unlisted code 64999, *Unlisted procedure, nervous system, pending future CPT coding changes, rather than code 64640 for cryoneurolysis, is rescinded.*** Note, however, that advice given to use code 64999 due to other factors (eg, specific nerve not addressed) may still apply. The appropriate CPT code should be reported based on coding guidelines currently in effect, with requisite monitoring of released CPT code changes.◆