



ADVANCED MEDICAL STRATEGIES  
PHYSICIANS. TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS.

February 11, 2015

Upon request of XXX a medical opinion regarding the treatment provided was conducted on the above patient. Our findings are documented below:

### **Clinical Summary:**

The patient is a 71-year-old female who was provided outpatient surgical services by the ABC ASC on July 24, 2014. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Code 63030-50 laminotomy with decompression of nerve root(s); 1 (one) interspace lumbar, bilateral, 64635-50-destruction by neurolytic agent, para vertebral facet joint nerve(s), with imaging guidance fluoroscopy or CT (computed tomography); lumbar or sacral, single facet joint, bilateral, 64636 LT (left)-destruction by neurolytic agent, para vertebral facet joint nerve(s), with imaging guidance fluoroscopy or CT; lumbar or sacral, each additional facet joint, left, 62311-injection(s) of diagnostic or therapeutic substance; lumbar or sacral (caudal), 77003-fluoroscopic guidance and localization of needle (technical component), 64555 LT-percutaneous implantation of neurostimulator electrode array; peripheral nerve, left as well as HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) A4649-surgical supply, miscellaneous and L8680-implantable neurostimulator electrode, each, were submitted. Charges totaled \$136,401.32.

### **Questions:**

**Please review the billings for accuracy and appropriateness based upon the procedures that are outlined in the OP & Anesthesia Reports.**

### **Conclusions\*:**

Based upon review of the billings and the procedures outlined in the operative (OP) and anesthesia reports, the codes as billed are accurate and appropriate with the exception of CPT 64555 LT by Dr. A, as well as HCPCS L8680 (3 [three] units) implantable neurostimulator electrode, each.

CPT Code 63030-50, CPT 64635-50, CPT 64636 LT, CPT 62311, CPT 77003, as well as HCPCS A4649 are specifically detailed as provided in the Operative Report and Progress Note.

Payments made regarding the facility fees from private insurers depends on the contract with the payer. The documentation submitted, most particularly the Operative Report and Progress Note, do not evidence CPT 64555 LT (anesthesia fee and consequently facility fee), or HCPCS L8680 (implantable neurostimulator electrode) as being provided on July 24, 2014. The accuracy and appropriateness of these codes are not supported.

### **Reference(s):**

1. 2014 CPT, by the American Medical Association
2. 2014 ICD-9-CM Expert for Physicians Volumes 1 and 2, by the American Academy of Professional Coders
3. HCPCS Medicare Level II Expert 2014, by the American Academy of Professional Coders

### **Reviewer's Credentials**

Actively practicing attorney and Certified Professional Coder (CPC). Has over 30 years' experience in business, health insurance law at state and federal levels. Has held executive leadership positions at the state and federal level. Expertise in appeals resolution, coverage and coding determinations, fraud and abuse hearings/activities, risk adjustment validation and regulatory analysis. Serves as member of the state and federal bar.

*\*The conclusions in this report may be modified or updated if additional historical or analytical data becomes available. The recommendations noted are made to a reasonable degree of medical certainty. These opinions are based on the medical records and information submitted to AMS for review, Physician/clinician contractors also consider published scientific medical evidence and other relevant information such as that available through federal government agencies, institutes, and professional associations. Advanced Medical Strategies, LLC. assumes no liability for the opinions. The client authorizing this case review agrees to hold AMS harmless for any and all claims which may arise as a result of this case review. This opinion is not intended to be final interpretation of plan/policy language or determination of benefits or exclusions. Adjudication of the claim remains solely the client's responsibility.*

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