

Musculoskeletal Program

Level of Care for Musculoskeletal Surgery and Procedures

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Description and Application of the Guidelines

AIM Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines (hereinafter “AIM Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines” or the “Guidelines”) are designed to assist providers in making the most appropriate treatment decision for a specific clinical condition for an individual. As used by AIM, the Guidelines establish objective and evidence-based, where possible, criteria for medical necessity determinations. In the process, multiple functions are accomplished:

- To establish criteria for when services are medically necessary
- To assist the practitioner as an educational tool
- To encourage standardization of medical practice patterns
- To curtail the performance of inappropriate and/or duplicate services
- To advocate for patient safety
- To enhance the quality of healthcare
- To promote the most efficient and cost-effective use of services

AIM guideline development process complies with applicable accreditation standards, including the requirement that the Guidelines be developed with involvement from appropriate providers with current clinical expertise relevant to the Guidelines under review and be based on the most up-to-date clinical principles and best practices. Relevant citations are included in the “References” section attached to each Guideline. AIM reviews all of its Guidelines at least annually.

AIM makes its Guidelines publicly available on its website twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Copies of the AIM Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines are also available upon verbal or written request. Although the Guidelines are publicly available, AIM considers the Guidelines to be important, proprietary information of AIM, which cannot be sold, assigned, leased, licensed, reproduced, or distributed without the written consent of AIM.

AIM applies objective and evidence-based criteria and takes individual circumstances and the local delivery system into account when determining the medical appropriateness of health care services. These criteria are designed to guide both providers and reviewers to the most appropriate services based on a patient’s unique circumstances. In all cases, clinical judgment consistent with the standards of good medical practice should be used when applying the Guidelines. Determinations based on the Guidelines are made based on the information provided at the time of the request. It is expected that medical necessity determinations may change as new information is provided or based on unique aspects of the patient’s condition. The treating clinician has final authority and responsibility for treatment decisions regarding the care of the patient and for justifying and demonstrating the existence of medical necessity for the requested service. The Guidelines are not a substitute for the experience and judgment of a physician or other health care professional. Any clinician seeking to apply or consult the Guidelines is expected to use independent medical judgment in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any patient’s care or treatment.

The Guidelines do not address coverage, benefit, or other plan specific issues. Applicable federal and state coverage mandates take precedence over these clinical guidelines. If requested by a health plan, AIM will review requests based on health plan medical policy/guidelines in lieu of the AIM Guidelines.

The Guidelines may also be used by the health plan or by AIM for purposes of provider education, or to review the medical necessity of services, due to billing practices or claims that are not consistent with other providers in terms of frequency or some other manner.

Level of Care Guidelines for Musculoskeletal Surgery and Procedures

General Information/Overview

Scope

Evidence is growing that supports the safety and effectiveness of the outpatient surgery setting for many orthopedic and spine surgical procedures. Procedures that have historically been performed in the inpatient setting are now being successfully performed in the outpatient surgery setting. Factors that have contributed to this movement include:

- Equal or better outcomes compared to inpatient setting
- Minimal invasive techniques and improved surgical technologies
- Improved anesthesia techniques and more effective postoperative pain management
- Lower costs and operational efficiency

Appropriate patient selection for the outpatient setting is paramount. It may be medically necessary for patients with certain risk factors and undergoing certain procedures to have their procedures performed in the inpatient setting.

The intent of this guideline is to assist in determining the appropriate level of care necessary to safely and effectively perform the intended surgical procedure. Provider should submit the required supporting medical documentation to include but not limited to the following:

- Provider office notes detailing preoperative medical optimization
- List of managed or unmanaged comorbidities and/or other surgical risk factors
- If requested, the specific reason for an inpatient preoperative day (see Preoperative Admission guidelines)
- Copies of medical consultations or clearances
- American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status (see [Appendix A](#)), Charlson Comorbidity Index score, or other validated surgical risk score if necessary, to support the requested level of care

This guideline does not address the medical necessity of the procedure itself. The prior authorization process for medical necessity of the surgical procedure is completed separately and precedes the level of care determination. The procedure must meet the respective AIM Musculoskeletal Surgery guideline for clinical appropriateness prior to level of care determination.

Definitions

Outpatient Surgical Setting

An outpatient surgical procedure is defined as one where a patient arrives and is registered at a setting other than the acute inpatient hospital setting, undergoes the procedure, and is discharged the same day or within the timeframe for observation defined by patient's health plan contract and/or local government regulatory agency. Such settings may include Observation Care, Hospital Outpatient Department (on or off campus), Ambulatory Surgical Center or Physician Office. For the purposes of this guideline, procedures performed in a Physician Office are out of scope.

Observation Surgical Setting

Observation is a special form of hospital outpatient care that provides interim services in place of an inpatient admission to allow for a reasonable period of time to evaluate and determine the need for further treatment or for inpatient admission. There is evidence that the characteristics of observation care in clinical practice differ from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services definition and that use of observation care is growing with short inpatient stays being the third most common reason to admit for observation. Individual cases admitted to Observation Care may undergo concurrent clinical review to assess the need for transfer to acute inpatient setting. Maximum length of stay in Observation Care is governed by the patient's health plan contract and/or local government regulatory agency.

Surgeons who request inpatient admission for an outpatient musculoskeletal procedure and who decline Observation Care will need to provide clinical documentation to support the need for direct admission to an acute inpatient setting.

Inpatient Surgical Setting

The inpatient surgical setting, rather than the outpatient setting, is required only if the patient's safety or health would be significantly and directly threatened if care were provided in a less intensive setting. The selection of surgical setting is not justified when it is solely for the convenience of the patient, the patient's family, or the provider.

Guidelines

Acute Inpatient Surgical Setting

The acute inpatient surgical setting may be considered medically necessary when at least one of the following requirements are met:

- Current postoperative care requirements are of such an intensity and/or duration that they cannot be met in an observation or outpatient surgical setting.
- Anticipated postoperative care requirements cannot be met, even initially, in an observational surgical setting due to the complexity, duration, or extent of the planned procedure and/or substantial preoperative patient risk.

Observation Outpatient Surgical Setting

The observation surgical setting may be considered medically necessary in patients with one or more preprocedural clinical risk factors that increase the likelihood of inpatient admission.

Note: The presence of medical and/or psychiatric comorbidities alone may not always justify an observation surgical setting, but consideration should be given if poorly controlled, unstable, untreated, or anticipated to require treatment postoperatively.

- Demographic/constitutional
 - Age 65 and above
 - BMI greater than 40 kg/m²
 - Pregnancy
- Medical risk factors
 - Charlson Comorbidity Index score greater than 2, ASA class greater than 2, or other attestation of comorbid status
 - Recent venous thromboembolic event
 - Severe or uncontrolled diabetes
 - Severe anemia (e.g., hemoglobin ≤ 10)
 - Coagulopathy
 - Recent unexplained weight loss
 - Malnutrition
 - Chronic pulmonary disease
 - COPD, severe and/or oxygen dependent
 - Respiratory distress
 - Obstructive sleep apnea
 - Liver disease including but not limited to cirrhosis
 - Vascular
 - Cardiovascular disease
 - Myocardial infarction within 6 months of intended surgery
 - Angina pectoris with severe functional limitation
 - Cardiac arrhythmia
 - Implantable cardiac device (defibrillator, pacemaker)
 - Congestive heart failure
 - Cerebrovascular disease
 - Recent stroke or transient ischemic attack
 - Uncontrolled preoperative pain
 - Prior complication of anesthesia
 - Prior postoperative complication
 - Ileus
 - Urinary retention
- Psychiatric/cognitive
 - Ongoing substance abuse
 - Cognitive impairment
- Functional status
 - Patient unable to care for individual needs
 - Functional impairment likely to necessitate inpatient rehabilitation after surgery (example: moderate to severe myelopathy)
 - Patient is at high risk for falls

Outpatient Surgical Setting (excluding Observation)

The nonobservation surgical setting includes Ambulatory Surgery Center or Hospital-based Outpatient Department and may be considered medically necessary for elective spine and joint surgery in low risk patients and procedures as follows:

Note: These requirements do not prohibit providers from performing these procedures in Ambulatory Surgery Center for carefully selected higher risk patients (e.g., physiologic age < biological age, medically optimized, uneventful prior procedure) according to their professional medical judgement.

Hospital-based Outpatient Department

- Patient meets all of the following:
 - Age less than 65
 - BMI less than or equal to 40 kg/m²
 - Low medical comorbidity risk
 - Safe post surgical disposition
- All necessary staff, equipment, and resources are available to safely and effectively perform the requested procedure in an ambulatory surgical center
 - Cervical
 - One- or two-level anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF) between C3 and C7
 - One- or two-level cervical disc arthroplasty between C3 and C7
 - One- or two-level foraminotomy
 - Lumbar
 - One- or two-level discectomy and/or decompression (laminectomy, laminotomy, or foraminotomy)
 - Vertebroplasty
 - Kyphoplasty
 - Joint
 - Total or partial primary knee arthroplasty for unilateral osteoarthritis
 - Total or partial primary hip arthroplasty for unilateral osteoarthritis

Ambulatory Surgery Center with 23-hour observation

- Patient meets all of the following:
 - Age less than 65
 - BMI less than or equal to 40 kg/m²
 - Low medical comorbidity risk
 - Safe post surgical disposition
- All necessary staff, equipment, and resources are available to safely and effectively perform the requested procedure in the ambulatory surgical center
 - Cervical
 - One- or two-level anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF) between C3 and C7
 - One- or two-level cervical disc arthroplasty between C3 and C7
 - One- or two-level foraminotomy

- Lumbar
 - One- or two-level discectomy and/or decompression (laminectomy, laminotomy, or foraminotomy)
- Vertebroplasty
- Kyphoplasty
- Joint
 - Total or partial primary knee arthroplasty for unilateral osteoarthritis
 - Total or partial primary hip arthroplasty for unilateral osteoarthritis
- Facility has the capability for minimum of 23-hour observation

Ambulatory Surgery Center with or without 23-hour observation

- The following procedure can be safely performed in the Ambulatory Surgical Center with or without 23 hours of observation
- Arthroscopy

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Joint

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Coding

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Figure 1. CPT codes for Joint Surgery

CPT	In scope for joint surgery
Knee Arthroplasty	
27437	Arthroplasty, patella; without prosthesis
27438	Arthroplasty, patella; with prosthesis
27440	Arthroplasty, knee, tibial plateau
27441	Arthroplasty, knee, tibial plateau; with debridement and partial synovectomy
27442	Arthroplasty, femoral condyles or tibial plateau(s), knee
27443	Arthroplasty, femoral condyles or tibial plateau(s), knee; with debridement and partial synovectomy
27446	Arthroplasty, knee, condyle and plateau; medial OR lateral compartment
27447	Arthroplasty, knee, condyle and plateau; medial AND lateral compartments with or without patella resurfacing (total knee arthroplasty)
Hip Arthroplasty	
27125	Hemiarthroplasty, hip, partial (eg, femoral stem prosthesis, bipolar arthroplasty)
27130	Arthroplasty, acetabular and proximal femoral prosthetic replacement (total hip arthroplasty), with or without autograft or allograft
Knee Arthroscopy and open procedures	
27331	Arthrotomy, knee; including joint exploration, biopsy, or removal of loose or foreign bodies
27332	Arthrotomy, with excision of semilunar cartilage (meniscectomy) knee; medial OR lateral
27333	Arthrotomy, with excision of semilunar cartilage (meniscectomy) knee; medial AND lateral
27334	Arthrotomy, with synovectomy, knee; anterior OR posterior
27335	Arthrotomy, with synovectomy, knee; anterior AND posterior including popliteal area
27403	Arthrotomy with meniscus repair, knee
27405	Repair, primary, torn ligament and/or capsule, knee; collateral
27407	Repair, primary, torn ligament and/or capsule, knee; cruciate
27409	Repair, primary, torn ligament and/or capsule, knee; collateral and cruciate ligaments

CPT	In scope for joint surgery
27412	Autologous chondrocyte implantation, knee
27415	Osteochondral allograft, knee, open
27416	Osteochondral autograft(s), knee, open (eg, mosaicplasty) (includes harvesting of autograft[s])
27427	Ligamentous reconstruction (augmentation), knee; extra-articular
27428	Ligamentous reconstruction (augmentation), knee; intra-articular (open)
27429	Ligamentous reconstruction (augmentation), knee; intra-articular (open) and extra-articular
29866	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; osteochondral autograft(s) (eg, mosaicplasty) (includes harvesting of the autograft[s])
29867	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; osteochondral allograft (eg, mosaicplasty)
29868	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; meniscal transplantation (includes arthrotomy for meniscal insertion), medial or lateral
29870	Arthroscopy, knee, diagnostic, with or without synovial biopsy (separate procedure)
29873	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with lateral release
29874	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; for removal of loose body or foreign body (eg, osteochondritis dissecans fragmentation, chondral fragmentation)
29875	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; synovectomy, limited (eg, plica or shelf resection) (separate procedure)
29876	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; synovectomy, major, 2 or more compartments (eg, medial or lateral)
29877	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; debridement/shaving of articular cartilage (chondroplasty)
29879	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; abrasion arthroplasty (includes chondroplasty where necessary) or multiple drilling or microfracture
29880	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with meniscectomy (medial AND lateral, including any meniscal shaving) including debridement/shaving of articular cartilage (chondroplasty), same or separate compartment(s), when performed
29881	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with meniscectomy (medial OR lateral, including any meniscal shaving) including debridement/shaving of articular cartilage (chondroplasty), same or separate compartment(s), when performed
29882	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with meniscus repair (medial OR lateral)
29883	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with meniscus repair (medial AND lateral)
29884	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with lysis of adhesions, with or without manipulation (separate procedure)
29885	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; drilling for osteochondritis dissecans with bone grafting, with or without internal fixation (including debridement of base of lesion)
29886	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; drilling for intact osteochondritis dissecans lesion
29887	Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; drilling for intact osteochondritis dissecans lesion with internal fixation
29888	Arthroscopically aided anterior cruciate ligament repair/augmentation or reconstruction
29889	Arthroscopically aided posterior cruciate ligament repair/augmentation or reconstruction
Hip Arthroscopy	
29860	Arthroscopy, hip, diagnostic with or without synovial biopsy (separate procedure)
29861	Arthroscopy, hip, surgical; with removal of loose body or foreign body
29862	Arthroscopy, hip, surgical; with debridement/shaving of articular cartilage (chondroplasty), abrasion arthroplasty, and/or resection of labrum
29863	Arthroscopy, hip, surgical; with synovectomy
29914	Arthroscopy, hip, surgical; with femoroplasty (ie, treatment of cam lesion)

CPT	In scope for joint surgery
29915	Arthroscopy, hip, surgical; with acetabuloplasty (ie, treatment of pincer lesion)
29916	Arthroscopy, hip, surgical; with labral repair
	Shoulder Arthroscopy and open procedures
23105	Arthrotomy; glenohumeral joint, with synovectomy, with or without biopsy
23107	Arthrotomy, glenohumeral joint, with joint exploration, with or without removal of loose or foreign body
23120	Claviclectomy; partial
23130	Acromioplasty or acromionectomy, partial, with or without coracoacromial ligament release
23410	Repair of ruptured musculotendinous cuff (eg, rotator cuff) open; acute
23412	Repair of ruptured musculotendinous cuff (eg, rotator cuff) open; chronic
23415	Coracoacromial ligament release, with or without acromioplasty
23420	Reconstruction of complete shoulder (rotator) cuff avulsion, chronic (includes acromioplasty)
23430	Tenodesis of long tendon of biceps
23440	Resection or transplantation of long tendon of biceps
23450	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior; Putti-Platt procedure or Magnuson type operation
23455	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior; with labral repair (eg, Bankart procedure)
23460	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior, any type; with bone block
23462	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior, any type; with coracoid process transfer
23465	Capsulorrhaphy, glenohumeral joint, posterior, with or without bone block
23466	Capsulorrhaphy, glenohumeral joint, any type multi-directional instability
29805	Arthroscopy, shoulder, diagnostic, with or without synovial biopsy (separate procedure)
29806	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; capsulorrhaphy
29807	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; repair of SLAP lesion
29819	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; with removal of loose body or foreign body
29820	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; synovectomy, partial
29821	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; synovectomy, complete
29822	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; debridement, limited
29823	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; debridement, extensive
29824	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; distal claviclectomy including distal articular surface (Mumford procedure)
29825	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; with lysis and resection of adhesions, with or without manipulation
29826	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; decompression of subacromial space with partial acromioplasty, with coracoacromial ligament (ie, arch) release, when performed (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
29827	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; with rotator cuff repair
29828	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; biceps tenodesis

Figure 2. CPT codes for Spine Surgery

CPT	In scope for spine surgery
Anterior Cervical Discectomy Fusion (ACDF) or Artificial Cervical Disc Arthroplasty	
22551	Arthrodesis, anterior interbody, including disc space preparation, discectomy, osteophyctomy and decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve roots; cervical below C2
22552	Arthrodesis, anterior interbody, including disc space preparation, discectomy, osteophyctomy and decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve roots; cervical below C2, each additional interspace (List separately in addition to code for separate procedure)
22554	Arthrodesis, anterior interbody technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); cervical below C2
22585	Arthrodesis, anterior interbody technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression); each additional interspace (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22845	Anterior instrumentation; 2 to 3 vertebral segments (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22856	Total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, including discectomy with end plate preparation (includes osteophyctomy for nerve root or spinal cord decompression and microdissection); single interspace, cervical
22858	Total disc arthroplasty (artificial disc), anterior approach, including discectomy with end plate preparation (includes osteophyctomy for nerve root or spinal cord decompression and microdissection); second level, cervical (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
22853	Insertion of interbody biomechanical device(s) (e.g., synthetic cage, mesh) with integral anterior instrumentation for device anchoring (e.g., screws, flanges), when performed, to intervertebral disc space in conjunction with interbody arthrodesis, each interspace (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
Cervical Laminotomy/Laminectomy	
63020	Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc; 1 interspace, cervical
63035	Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc; each additional interspace, cervical or lumbar (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
63040	Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc, reexploration, single interspace; cervical
63043	Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc, reexploration, single interspace; each additional cervical interspace (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
63075	Discectomy, anterior, with decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve root(s), including osteophyctomy; cervical, single interspace
63076	Discectomy, anterior, with decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve root(s), including osteophyctomy; cervical, each additional interspace (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
Lumbar Discectomy/Laminectomy	
63005	Laminectomy with exploration and/or decompression of spinal cord and/or cauda equina, without facetectomy, foraminotomy or discectomy (e.g., spinal stenosis), 1 or 2 vertebral segments; lumbar, except for spondylolisthesis
63012	Laminectomy with removal of abnormal facets and/or pars inter-articularis with decompression of cauda equina and nerve roots for spondylolisthesis, lumbar (Gill type procedure)

CPT	In scope for spine surgery
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| 63017 | Laminectomy with exploration and/or decompression of spinal cord and/or cauda equina, without facetectomy, foraminotomy or discectomy (e.g., spinal stenosis), more than 2 vertebral segments; lumbar |
| 63030 | Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc; 1 interspace, lumbar |
| 63042 | Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc, reexploration, single interspace; lumbar |
| 63044 | Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), with decompression of nerve root(s), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated intervertebral disc, reexploration, single interspace; each additional lumbar interspace (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |
| 63047 | Laminectomy, facetectomy and foraminotomy (unilateral or bilateral with decompression of spinal cord, cauda equina and/or nerve root[s], [e.g., spinal or lateral recess stenosis]), single vertebral segment; lumbar |
| 63048 | Laminectomy, facetectomy and foraminotomy (unilateral or bilateral with decompression of spinal cord, cauda equina and/or nerve root[s], [eg, spinal or lateral recess stenosis]), single vertebral segment; each additional segment, cervical, thoracic, or lumbar |
| 63056 | Transpedicular approach with decompression of spinal cord, equina and/or nerve root(s) (e.g., herniated intervertebral disc), single segment; lumbar (including transfacet, or lateral extraforaminal approach) (e.g., far lateral herniated intervertebral disc) |
| 63057 | Transpedicular approach with decompression of spinal cord, equina and/or nerve root(s) (e.g., herniated intervertebral disc), single segment; each additional segment, thoracic or lumbar (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |

Vertebroplasty/Kyphoplasty

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| 22510 | Percutaneous vertebroplasty (bone biopsy included when performed), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral injection, inclusive of all imaging guidance; cervicothoracic |
| 22511 | Percutaneous vertebroplasty (bone biopsy included when performed), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral injection, inclusive of all imaging guidance; lumbosacral |
| 22512 | Percutaneous vertebroplasty (bone biopsy included when performed), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral injection, inclusive of all imaging guidance; each additional cervicothoracic or lumbosacral vertebral body (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |
| 22513 | Percutaneous vertebral augmentation, including cavity creation (fracture reduction and bone biopsy included when performed) using mechanical device (e.g., kyphoplasty), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral cannulation, inclusive of all imaging guidance |
| 22514 | Percutaneous vertebral augmentation, including cavity creation (fracture reduction and bone biopsy included when performed) using mechanical device (e.g., kyphoplasty), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral cannulation, inclusive of all imaging guidance |
| 22515 | Percutaneous vertebral augmentation, including cavity creation (fracture reduction and bone biopsy included when performed) using mechanical device (e.g., kyphoplasty), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral cannulation, inclusive of all imaging guidance |

Appendix A. ASA Physical Status Classification System

ASA PS Classification	Definition	Examples, including, but not limited to:
ASA I	A normal healthy patient	Healthy, non-smoking, no or minimal alcohol use
ASA II	A patient with mild systemic disease	Mild diseases only without substantive functional limitations. Examples include (but not limited to): current smoker, social alcohol drinker, pregnancy, obesity (30 < BMI < 40), well-controlled DM/HTN, mild lung disease
ASA III	A patient with severe systemic disease	Substantive functional limitations; One or more moderate to severe diseases. Examples include (but not limited to): poorly controlled DM or HTN, COPD, morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40), active hepatitis, alcohol dependence or abuse, implanted pacemaker, moderate reduction of ejection fraction, ESRD undergoing regularly scheduled dialysis, premature infant PCA < 60 weeks, history (> 3 months) of MI, CVA, TIA, or CAD/stents.
ASA IV	A patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life	Examples include (but not limited to): recent (< 3 months) MI, CVA, TIA, or CAD/stents, ongoing cardiac ischemia or severe valve dysfunction, severe reduction of ejection fraction, sepsis, DIC, ARD or ESRD not undergoing regularly scheduled dialysis
ASA V	A moribund patient who is not expected to survive without the operation	Examples include (but not limited to): ruptured abdominal/thoracic aneurysm, massive trauma, intracranial bleed with mass effect, ischemic bowel in the face of significant cardiac pathology or multiple organ/system dysfunction
ASA VI	A declared brain-dead patient whose organs are being removed for donor purposes	--

*The addition of "E" denotes Emergency surgery: (An emergency is defined as existing when delay in treatment of the patient would lead to a significant increase in the threat to life or body part)

Source: 2014 [ASA Physical Status Classification System](#) available at the American Society of Anesthesiologists website; Accessed June 26, 2018.

History

Status	Date	Action
Revised	01/28/2019	Observation surgical setting added
Reviewed	07/11/2018	Last Independent Multispecialty Physician Panel review
Created	03/01/2018	Original effective date
Reviewed	12/12/2017	Independent Multispecialty Physician Panel review