Infusion and Injection Coding Review

A Case Study Approach to Accurate Reporting

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Auditing IV Infusions

– An order and diagnosis for the service, which supports medical necessity;
– The name and dose (units/concentration) of drugs or substances provided;
– The route of administration (e.g., injection, push, infusion);
– The time the service was provided, including start and stop times for infusions and whether the infusion was initially started via ambulance; and
– The provider's initials or signature.

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Infusion Terminology

• Initial service – not necessarily the first infusion/injection but the one highest in the infusion hierarchy.
• Sequential - A sequential infusion is considered to be an infusion of a different drug administered immediately following the initial infusion, in other words one drug after the other.
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**Infusion Terminology**

- **Concurrent** - A concurrent injection/infusion is a service in which multiple infusions are provided through the same intravenous line at the same time as the original infusion.
- **Infusion** – It is commonly referred to as a drip because many systems of administration employ a drip chamber, which prevents air entering the blood stream (air embolism) and allows an estimate of flow rate.

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**Infusion Terminology**

- **IVP** - The procedure for IV push is similar to the procedure for Gravity except the drug is IV pushed rather than dripped. Typically the medication is delivered in the syringe, ready to be infused. Used for some antibiotics.
- **Bolus** – see IVP

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**Follow CPT Guidelines, parenthetical notes, and hierarchy**

- The initial code should be selected using the hierarchy whereby:
  - Chemo services are primary to therapeutic, prophylactic, and diagnostic services, which are primary to hydration services.
  - Always follow the hierarchy regardless of the order in which services were provided for outpatient services; the hierarchy does not apply to physician reporting.
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**Administration**

- The hierarchy for the route of administration regardless of the order in which services were provided is:
  - Infusions
  - Pushes
  - Injections

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**Hierarchy**

- Chemotherapy Infusions (96413, 96415, 96416 & 96417)
- Chemotherapy injections (96409 & 96411)
- Non-chemotherapy, therapeutic infusions (96365, 96366, 96367 & 96368)
- Non-chemotherapy, therapeutic injections (96374, 96375 & 96376)
- Hydration infusions (96360 & 96361)

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**Initial Infusions chemo and non-chemo**

- CPT CODE 96413 CHEMO
- CPT CODE 96365 NON-CHEMO
- Initial or first hour of infusion is 16-90 minutes.
  - Report add-on codes for additional hours of infusion only after more than 30 minutes have passed from the end of the previously billed hour (i.e., 91 minutes would allow an additional hour to be charged)
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Initial Infusions chemo and non-chemo continued

• It’s OK to have more than one initial service code when there are separate sites (i.e., IV #1 placed in left hand and IV #2 placed in right hand) a double lumen infusion does NOT constitute 2 IV sites and can’t be charged as such OR

• Separate encounters (i.e., first encounter at 8 a.m. and second encounter at 4:00 p.m.)

• Typically only one initial service will be reported per encounter use modifier 59

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Initial Infusions chemo and non-chemo continued

• If 15 minutes or less (or no time documented) chemo and non-chemo infusions are reported using an IV push code
  – Therapeutic IV push CPT code 96374
  – Chemo IV push CPT code 96409

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Initial Infusions chemo and non-chemo continued

• Time documentation is critical since separate codes exist for initial, sequential, and concurrent infusions

• Subsequent/Sequential are add-on codes
  – Reasonable to report multiple sequential infusion codes if multiple/different drugs are administered
Consider the following

- Patient was given chemotherapy from 12:17 – 13:35, prior to the chemotherapy patient received Invanz from 10:25 – 10:55 and an IVP of Ativan at 14:05 – 14:18.

Answer

- Pt was given chemotherapy from 12:17 – 13:35; initial service 96413
- Prior to the chemotherapy patient received Invanz from 10:25 – 10:55 – 96367 – cannot report 96365, 96366 is not stand alone, so we must report 96367
- IVP Ativan 14:05 – 14:18 - 96375

IV Push

- IV or intra-arterial push is an injection in which the healthcare professional who administers the substance/drug is continuously present to administer the injection and observe the patient, OR an infusion of 15 minutes or less.
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**IV Push**

- Multiple codes exist for IV pushes. Code selection is based on whether the push is initial or subsequent and how much time elapses between multiple pushes of the same substance or drug.
- Same drug pushed after 30 minutes report CPT 96376 (facility code reporting only)

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**Case Study**

- A patient comes to the ER on 1/15/2011, and IV hydration is started at 10:00 p.m. and continues until 6:30 a.m. on 1/16/2011. The patient also received an IV push of morphine on 1/15/2011 and again at 2 a.m. on 1/16/2011. What CPT codes and units should be reported?

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**Case Study Answer**

- 96374 x 1  1/15/2011
- 96361 x 2  1/15/2011
- 96361 x 6  1/16/2011
- 96376 x 1  1/16/2011
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Hydration CPT code 96360
• Duration description: 31 minutes to 1 hour
• 96360 cannot be reported if performed concurrent to an infusion
• Hydration provided before and/or after chemotherapy is appropriate to charge, but not hydration running during chemotherapy
• Document time and medical necessity

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Hydration continued
• The documentation must reflect that the physician ordered hydration for a medically necessary reason and not just to facilitate the administration of the chemotherapy to report only the non-overlapping hydration time.

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Consider the following
• Patient comes in for a chemotherapy infusion. He first receives a non-chemotherapy IV push injection at 9:30 a.m.. The nurse documents that the chemotherapy infusion runs from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.. In addition, he receives hydration from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. for dehydration. How would you code this?
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Answer

- 96413 for the first hour of IV chemotherapy infusion
- 96415 for the additional 45 minutes of the chemotherapy infusion
- 96375 for the non-chemotherapy IV push injection
- 96361 for the hour of hydration (10 a.m. to 11 a.m.)

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Hydration Continued

- According to the CPT manual instructions, +96361 can only be reported for hydration infusion intervals of greater than 30 minutes beyond 1 hour increments.
- Report +96361 to identify hydration if provided as a secondary or subsequent service after a different initial service (96360, 96365, 96374, 96409, 96413) is administered through the same IV access.

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Hydration Reminders

- If hydration lasts for 30 minutes or less, it cannot be reported.
- Hydration cannot be reported when the fluids are solely to administer drugs or to keep the line open. The administration of fluid is incidental hydration and it cannot be billed.
Hydration Reminder Continued

• Hydration that is stopped and started multiple times at the same session cannot be added together to report the total time based on the description, it must be looked at on its own to see if it meets the time criteria.

Consider the following

• Patient receives two 25 minute hydrations in the ER. The first is documented with a start time of 7 a.m. and stopped at 7:25 a.m.. The second is documented with a start time of 8 a.m. and stopped at 8:25 a.m.
• Each infusion per its separate start and stop time must be looked at on its own to see if it meets the time criteria to report it.

Answer

• The separate administration of hydration for less than 30 minutes each cannot be reported.
Consider the following

- Patient comes into the ER with vomiting. Dr. orders an IV push of Zofran and IV hydration for dehydration. The nurse documents that she administered the IV push at 1:44 p.m.. She also documents that she started the hydration at 2:05 p.m. and discontinued it at 4:10 p.m.. How should this case be reported?

Answer

- IV push of Zofran CPT code 96374 (initial therapeutic)
- 96361 x 2 for 125 minutes of hydration

Consider the following

- Patient receives IV Cipro in the outpatient clinic start time 9 a.m. stop time 10:31 a.m.
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Answer

• 96365 x 1 first hour
• 96366 x 1 for additional 31 minutes
• Infusions need to last beyond 90 minutes to report the add on code for the second hour.

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Q & A??

• Thank You