Open Treatment of Rib Fractures

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the Health Insurance Claim Form CMS-1500 or its electronic equivalent or its successor form, and services reported using facility claim form CMS-1450 or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network physicians, and other health care professionals.

The HCPCS/CPT code(s) may be subject to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits. This policy does not take precedence over CCI edits. Please refer to the CCI for correct coding guidelines and specific applicable code combinations prior to billing UnitedHealthcare. It is not enough to link the procedure code to a correct, payable ICD-9-CM diagnosis code. The diagnosis must be present for the procedure to be paid. Compliance with the provisions in this policy is subject to monitoring by pre-payment review and/or post-payment data analysis and subsequent medical review. The effective date of changes/additions/deletions to this policy is the committee meeting date unless otherwise indicated. CPT codes and descriptions are copyright 2010 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

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Open Treatment of Rib Fractures

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Summary

Overview
Patients diagnosed with flail chest due to chest wall injury have benefited from fracture reduction and the surgical placement of internal fixation. Literature supports a reduction in mortality rate, occurrence of disease and increased quality of life. It is anticipated that internal rib fixation would only be utilized in cases where the severity of symptoms would necessitate the use of stabilization.

Reimbursement Guidelines
Payment for CPT codes 0245T thru 0248T is allowed for the open treatment and internal fixation of fractured ribs and or flail chest when medically necessary effective 08/01/2012.

CPT/HCPCS Codes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0245T</td>
<td>Open treatment of rib fracture requiring internal fixation, unilateral; 1-2 ribs</td>
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<tr>
<td>0246T</td>
<td>Open treatment of rib fracture requiring internal fixation, unilateral; 3-4 ribs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0247T</td>
<td>Open treatment of rib fracture requiring internal fixation, unilateral; 5-6 ribs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0248T</td>
<td>Open treatment of rib fracture requiring internal fixation, unilateral; 7 or more ribs</td>
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</tbody>
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References Included (but not limited to):

**CMS LCD(s)**
Numerous LCDs

**CMS Article(s)**
Numerous Articles

**UnitedHealthcare Reimbursement Policies**
Category III CPT Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revisions</th>
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<tr>
<td>08/27/2014</td>
<td>Annual Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/10/2013</td>
<td>Policy created; MRPC approved</td>
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