

Transendoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Biopsy Utilizing the Cook Endoscopy EchoTip® Endoscopic Ultrasound Brush

2009 CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT GUIDE

This guide was developed to assist with Medicare reporting and reimbursement when utilizing the Cook Endoscopy EchoTip Endoscopic Ultrasound Brush during transendoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration.

Coverage

Medicare carriers may issue local coverage decisions (LCDs) listing criteria that must be met prior to coverage. Physicians are urged to review these policies (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp?>), and contact their carrier's medical director (www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/contacts) or commercial insurers to determine if a procedure is covered.

Coding

The coding suggestions provided in this guide are based on the recommendations received from the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). We encourage providers to contact the coding experts at these societies if further coding advice is required.

The AGA/ACG/ASGE recommendations include the following: "[W]hen the [EchoTip - Endoscopic Ultrasound Brush] is used as part of fine needle biopsy and/or aspiration of a lesion, it would be appropriate to use the respective endoscopic ultrasound procedure code associated with a fine needle aspiration/biopsy(s) procedure." The following table displays the endoscopic ultrasound-guided FNA/biopsy procedures in which the EchoTip is most likely to be used, along with current (2009) national Medicare average fee schedule amounts.

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Disclaimer: The information provided herein reflects Cook's understanding of the procedure(s) and/or device(s) from sources which may include, but are not limited to, the CPT, ICD-9 and MS-DRG coding systems; Medicare payment systems; commercially available coding guides; professional societies; and research conducted by independent coding and reimbursement consultants. This information should not be construed as authoritative. The entity billing Medicare and/or third party payers is solely responsible for the accuracy of the codes assigned to the services and items in the medical record. Cook does not, and should not, have access to medical records, and therefore cannot recommend codes for specific cases. When making coding decisions, we encourage you to seek input from the AMA, AHA, relevant medical societies, CMS, your local Medicare Administrative Contractor and other health plans to which you submit claims. Cook does not promote the off-label use of its devices.

Payment

2009 Medicare Reimbursement for EchoBrush™ - Endoscopic Ultrasound Cytology Brush

Code	Description	Ambulatory Surgery Center	Outpatient Hospital		Physician Services	
		Facility Payment ¹	APC	Facility Payment (National Medicare Avg) ²	Fee When Procedure Is Performed in the Hospital or ASC (National Medicare Avg) ³	Fee When Procedure Is Performed in the Office (National Medicare Avg) ³
43232	Esophagoscopy, rigid or flexible; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/biopsy(s)	\$392.07	0141	\$571.58	\$253.19	\$253.19
43238	Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy including esophagus, stomach and either the duodenum and/or jejunum as appropriate; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/ biopsy(s), esophagus (includes endoscopic ultrasound examination limited to the esophagus)	\$392.07	0141	\$571.58	\$287.45	\$287.45
43242	Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy including esophagus, stomach and either the duodenum and/or jejunum as appropriate; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/ biopsy(s) (includes endoscopic ultrasound examination of the esophagus, stomach and either the duodenum and/ or jejunum as appropriate)	\$392.07	0141	\$571.58	\$410.44	\$410.44
45342	Sigmoidoscopy, flexible; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/biopsy(s)	\$346.66	0147	\$603.28	\$231.19	\$231.19
45392	Colonoscopy, flexible, proximal to splenic flexure; with transendoscopic ultrasound-guided intramural or transmural fine needle aspiration/biopsy(s)	\$398.85	0143	\$593.76	\$363.19	\$363.19

1. 2009 Medicare Ambulatory Surgery Center Fee Schedule
2. 2009 Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Fee Schedule
3. 2009 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

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2009 physician fees for your local area can be found at the following CMS links:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PFSlookup/02_PFSsearch.asp#TopOfPage

or

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/PFSNPAF/list.asp#TopOfPage>



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