

Endoscopic Mucosal Resection Utilizing the Duette™ Multi-Band Mucosectomy Device

2009 CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT GUIDE

Dear Doctor:

As with many procedures utilizing new medical devices, questions have arisen regarding the correct CPT® code(s) to use in reporting endoscopic mucosal resection with the Cook Endoscopy Duette Multi-Band Mucosectomy Device. For your information, we have included CPT coding recommendations for this procedure from the relevant specialty societies. If you have questions about these recommendations, we encourage you to contact the coding experts at these societies.

Relevant societies recommend an unlisted code be used to describe a portion of the procedure. Submission of claims with unlisted codes typically requires: (a) submission of a paper claim, (b) your procedural note attached to the claim, and (c) a cover letter to the health plan/payer that contains the following information: (1) identification of comparable procedure(s) to assist the insurer in establishing a payment level and (2) an explanation of the procedure, the patient selection, the medical necessity and clinical benefits. We encourage you to follow these steps when submitting claims for the use of the Duette Multi-Band Mucosectomy Device for endoscopic mucosal resection.

In selecting a comparative code as a reference to establish payment, you should select an existing CPT code with a work RVU that represents an equivalent work effort by the physician. The comparison code(s) selected should represent a similar amount of time, skill, risk and intensity as that included in the banding portion of the endoscopic mucosal resection procedure utilizing the Duette device. The following table shows two codes that you may want to consider as comparative procedures. Please note these are merely suggestions and should not take precedence over your professional judgment.

Code	Description	Work RVU	Global RVU Facility	Global RVU Nonfacility
43205	Esophagoscopy, rigid or flexible; with band ligation of esophageal varices	3.78	6.00	6.00
43244	Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy including esophagus, stomach, and either the duodenum and/or jejunum as appropriate; with band ligation of esophageal and/or gastric varices	5.04	7.95	7.95

If your claim is denied using the unlisted procedure code, look at the explanation of benefits (EOB) to determine the reason for denial. You may need to provide further education to the payer regarding medical necessity, FDA clearance or efficacy of the procedure.

If Medicare is a dominant payer and you plan to do the procedure on a regular basis, you may want to go directly to the Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) member or Carrier Medical Director (CMD) for your state Medicare carrier to help educate and establish coverage of this procedure under the unlisted code. If you are dealing with a private payer, generally you can contact a technology or medical device group that makes coverage determinations.

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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.

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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