2026 Physician Updates in EP Ablation Coding and Compliance

J&J MedTech EP

Presented by Jennifer Varela

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Faculty Disclosure

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Serves as outside faculty for educational programs hosted by JNJ MedTech. Has no other relevant financial relationships with commercial interests.

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The case study examples are provided to only illustrate a possible reimbursement scenario. It is not intended as direction on how to conduct or code a procedure. Individual procedures and corresponding codes will vary based on the physician's medical judgment and circumstances of the case.

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Learning Objectives

Identify tools that support accurate coding and documentation.

Consider appropriate updates to enhance efficiency and compliance.

Agenda

- Background
- Diagnosis Coding
- Diagnostic Procedures
- Bundling and Add-on Codes
- Case Scenarios
- Coding and Documentation Improvement
- Additional Resources

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Diagnosis Coding

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ICD-10-CM & ICD-10-PCS

The ICD-10 updates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 contain a minor number of revisions.

- FY 2025 ICD-10-CM had 252 new code additions, 36 deletions and 13 revisions.
- FY 2025 ICD-10-PCS added 371 new codes, 61 deletions, and 0 revisions.

These numbers do not include changes to notes and other instructions, nor the ICD-10-CM Guidelines.

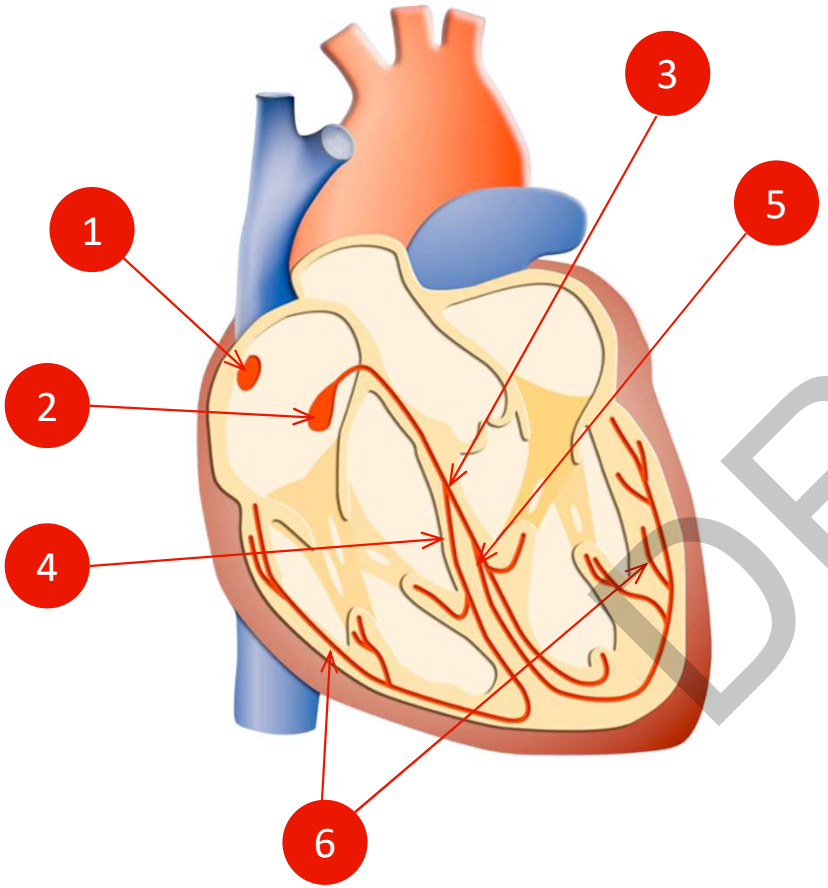
The changes in the code sets vary from simple to complex but getting to know them is essential. A current release of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS is available at http://www.cms.gov/ICD10

For inpatient procedures, Two ICD-10-PCS codes are utilized for cardiac ablations.

ICD-10-PCS Code	Code Description
02583ZZ	Destruction of conduction mechanism, percutaneous approach
02583ZF	Destruction of conduction mechanism using irreversible electroporation, percutaneous approach

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Conduction System of the Heart



1. Sinoatrial (SA) Node
2. Atrioventricular (AV) Node
3. His Bundle
4. Right Bundle Branch
5. Left Bundle Branch
6. Purkinje Fibers

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Arrhythmia Diagnoses

I47 Paroxysmal tachycardia

Code first tachycardia complicating:
abortion or ectopic or molar pregnancy (O00-O07.4, O08.8-O08.89)
obstetric surgery and procedures (O75.4)

Excludes: tachycardia NOS (R00.0)
sinoauricular tachycardia NOS (R00.0)
sinus [sinusal] tachycardia NOS (R00.0)

I47.0 Re-entry ventricular arrhythmia

I47.10 Supraventricular tachycardia, unspecified

I47.19 Other supraventricular tachycardia

Atrial (paroxysmal) tachycardia
Atrioventricular [AV] (paroxysmal) tachycardia
Atrioventricular re-entrant (nodal) tachycardia [AVNRT] [AVRT]
Junctional (paroxysmal) tachycardia
Nodal (paroxysmal) tachycardia

I47.20 Ventricular tachycardia

I47.9 Paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified
Bouveret (-Hoffman) syndrome

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Arrhythmia Diagnoses

I48 Atrial fibrillation and flutter

I48.0 Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation

I48.1 Persistent atrial fibrillation

Excludes1: Permanent atrial fibrillation (I48.21)

I48.11 Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation

I48.19 Other persistent atrial fibrillation

Chronic persistent atrial fibrillation

Persistent atrial fibrillation, NOS

I48.2 Chronic atrial fibrillation

I48.20 Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified

Excludes1: Chronic persistent atrial fibrillation (I48.19)

I48.21 Permanent atrial fibrillation

I48.3 Typical atrial flutter

Type I atrial flutter

I48.4 Atypical atrial flutter

Type II atrial flutter

I48.9 Unspecified atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter

I48.91 Unspecified atrial fibrillation

I48.92 Unspecified atrial flutter

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In the US, Biosense Webster, Inc. THERMOCOOL® Non-Navigational Catheters are indicated for the treatment of Type I Atrial Flutter in patients 18 years of age or older.

Types of Atrial Fibrillation from the 2023 ACC/AHA/ACCP/HRS Guidelines[1]

Patients may transition among these stages of AF

Early Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation begins suddenly and ends spontaneously. Intermittent episodes that last between 30 seconds and 24 hours

Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation is episodic and lasts more than 24 hours; begins suddenly and ends spontaneously within 7 days of onset but may be recurrent.

Persistent atrial fibrillation refers to atrial fibrillation that occurs for longer than 7 days and ends either spontaneously or with treatment.

Long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation refers to patients who have uninterrupted atrial fibrillation for more than a year.

Permanent atrial fibrillation last for more than a year. Patients may receive treatments to control heart rate and reduce stroke risk but no further attempts at rhythm control treatment after discussion between patient and physician.

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1. Joglar JA, Chung MK, Armbruster AL, et al. 2023 ACC/AHA/ACCP/HRS Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Atrial Fibrillation: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines [published correction appears in Circulation. 2024 Jan 2;149(1):e167]. Circulation. 2024;149(1):e1-e156. doi:10.1161/CIR.0000000000001193

Arrhythmia Diagnoses

I49 Other cardiac arrhythmias

Code first cardiac arrhythmia complicating:
abortion or ectopic or molar pregnancy (O00-O07.4, O08.8-O08.89)
obstetric surgery and procedures (O75.4)

bradycardia NOS (R00.1)

neonatal dysrhythmia (P29.1-P29.12)
sinoatrial bradycardia (R00.1)
sinus bradycardia (R00.1)
vagal bradycardia (R00.1)

I49.0 Ventricular fibrillation and flutter

I49.01 Ventricular fibrillation

I49.02 Ventricular flutter

I49.1 Atrial premature depolarization
Atrial premature beats

I49.2 Junctional premature depolarization

I49.3 Ventricular premature depolarization

I49.4 Other and unspecified premature depolarization

I49.40 Unspecified premature depolarization
Premature beats NOS

I49.49 Other premature depolarization
Ectopic beats
Extrasystoles
Extrasystolic arrhythmias
Premature contractions

I49.5 Sick sinus syndrome
Tachycardia-bradycardia syndrome

I49.8 Other specified cardiac arrhythmias
Brugada syndrome
Coronary sinus rhythm disorder
Ectopic rhythm disorder
Nodal rhythm disorder

I49.9 Cardiac arrhythmia, unspecified
Arrhythmia (cardiac) NOS

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Diagnosis Specificity

When documenting arrhythmias, include the following:

Criteria	Examples
Location	Atrial, ventricular, supraventricular, nodal
Rhythm Name	Flutter, fibrillation, type 1 atrial flutter, long QT syndrome, sick sinus syndrome, WPW syndrome
Acuity / Quality	Acute, persistent, chronic, permanent, paroxysmal, typical, atypical
Cause, if applicable	Hyperkalemia, hypertension, alcohol consumption, digoxin, amiodarone, verapamil HCl

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Procedural Coding

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Non-Invasive Evaluation of Arrhythmias

Multiple clinical studies have shown increased detection of important arrhythmias with longer monitoring periods to determine severity / burden. Cardiovascular monitoring services are diagnostic medical procedures using in-person and remote technology to assess cardiovascular rhythm (ECG) data.

- Holter monitors (93224 - 93227) include up to *48 hours* of continuous recording.
- Mobile cardiac telemetry monitors (93228, 93229) have the capability of transmitting a tracing at *anytime*, always have internal ECG analysis algorithms designed to detect major arrhythmias and transmit to an attended surveillance center. These codes include transmission to surveillance center up to 30 days.
- Event monitors record segments of ECGs with recording initiation triggered either by *patient activation or by an internal automatic, pre-programmed detection algorithm (or both)* and transmit the recorded electrocardiographic data when requested (but cannot transmit immediately based upon the patient or algorithmic activation rhythm). Category I event monitor codes (93268 – 93272) require attended surveillance; To report event monitors that do not require attended surveillance see unlisted cardiovascular or procedure code 93799.
- For long-term devices that continuously record and store for *greater than 48 hours and up to 7 days* (93241 – 93244), or for greater than *7 days up to 15 days* (93245 – 93248).

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Diagnostic Electrophysiologic Procedures

Documentation Notes

- If not all of the components included in the definition of a comprehensive electrophysiological study are performed, the specific measurements would be reported individually. Sites paced and recorded within the heart should be clearly indicated in the documentation.
- If the physician were to place a single coronary sinus catheter for left atrial pacing and recording, without comprehensive EP study, this may be reported as 93602 and 93610, as the codes do not specify right or left atrium.
- For comprehensive studies, the descriptor for 93620 states, “induction *or attempted* induction of arrhythmia.” Therefore, this code is appropriate even when an attempt is not successful.

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Intracardiac Electrophysiology Procedures

Diagnostic Electrophysiologic Study

Individual Measurements

93600	His bundle recording
93602	Intra-atrial recording
93603	Right ventricular recording
93610	Intra-atrial pacing
93612	Right ventricular pacing

Comprehensive Study

93619	Right atrial and ventricular pacing & recording, His bundle recording

Arrhythmia Induction

93618	Induction of arrhythmia
93620	Comprehensive study with induction

Mapping

+93609	Mapping
+93613	Three-dimensional mapping

Add-on Codes

+93621	Left atrial pacing & recording
+93622	Left ventricular pacing & recording
+93623	Programmed stimulation after IV drug infusion
+93662	Intracardiac echocardiography

Ablation Procedures

93650	AV node ablation
93653	EP study with atrial ablation
93654	EP study with ventricular ablation
+93655	Ablate discrete mechanism of arrhythmia
93656	EP study with pulmonary vein ablation for Afib
+93657	Ablate additional foci for Afib

Note: There has been a modification to CPT® 93656 for CY 2025; language has been added that notes the "induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing/recording" instead of "when performed"

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Variations in Bundling and Add-On Codes

There are many methods by which procedures may be “bundled” or “packaged”, which can vary by different payor policies:

- CPT Definitions
  - “Includes, when performed” or “(separate procedure)”
  - Certain procedures are designated add-on codes per CPT® definition, and may only be reported in conjunction with a primary procedure – one may not be reported “stand-alone”
- The National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI)
- Private Software
- Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)
- Payor and Procedure Specific Frequency Guidelines

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Variations in Bundling and Add-On Codes

CPT® may also indicate in a parenthetical instruction that a procedure may only be reported when in conjunction with other specified. Examples relevant to EP services include:

- Standard mapping (93609) non 3D mapping, may be reported only in conjunction with 93620, 93653 and 93656; it is bundled with 93654.
- Left atrial pacing and recording (93621) may only be reported in conjunction with 93620, it is included in 93653, and 93656. However, it is reported with CPT code 93654
- Left ventricular pacing and recording (93622) may be reported in conjunction with 93620 – it may also be appropriate with 93653 or 93656 but is included in 93654.
- IV drug study (93623) may be reported in conjunction with 93610, 93612, 93619, or 93620 – it may also be reported with ablation codes 93653, 93654, and 93656; CCI includes additional limitations.
- Intracardiac echocardiography (93662) may be reported in conjunction with 93620, 93653, or 93654; it is bundled with 93656.
- Transseptal puncture (93462) may be reported with 93653 or 93654 but is bundled with 93656.
- Only one primary ablation package (93653, 93654, or 93656) may be reported per case; ablation for additional arrhythmias are reported with 93655 or 93657.

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Electrophysiology Procedures

The CPT™ Editorial Panel annually reviews codes that are frequently reported together (more than 70% of the time), since 2022 certain add-on codes have been bundled into the primary ablation packages.

EP Service	93653 (SVT Ablation)	93654 (VT Ablation)	93656 (AFib Ablation)
Induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording	Inherent to the procedure	Inherent to the procedure	X
Intracardiac 3D Mapping (93613)	X	X	X
Standard Mapping (93609)	N/A	X	N/A
Right ventricular pacing and recording (93603)	X	X	X
Left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium (93621)	X	X	X
HIS bundle recording (93600)	X	X	X
Left ventricular pacing and recording (93622)	N/A	X	N/A
Intracardiac echocardiography (93662)	N/A	N/A	X
Transeptal Puncture (93462)	N/A	N/A	Inherent to the procedure
Ablation of distinct arrhythmia mechanism (93655)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Additional linear or focal atrial ablation for AFib (93657)	Can only be reported with CPT 93656	Can only be reported with CPT 93656	N/A

N/A=CPT Code separately reportable when appropriate and all the procedural components have been documented.

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Physician Reimbursement and Case Studies

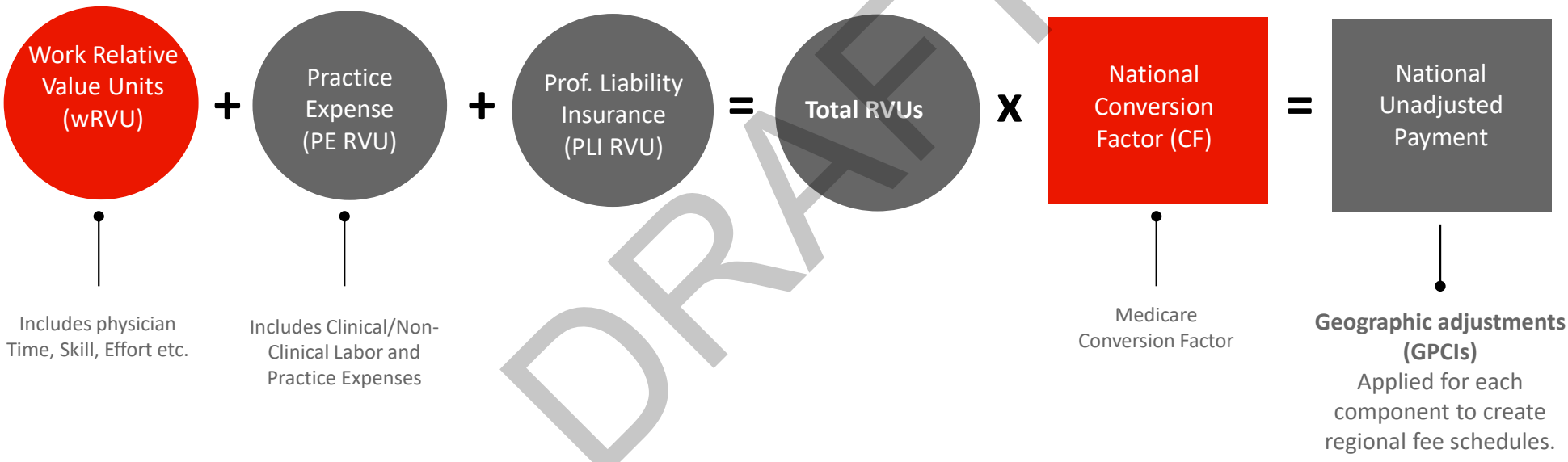
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Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) – Overview

The Role of RVUs

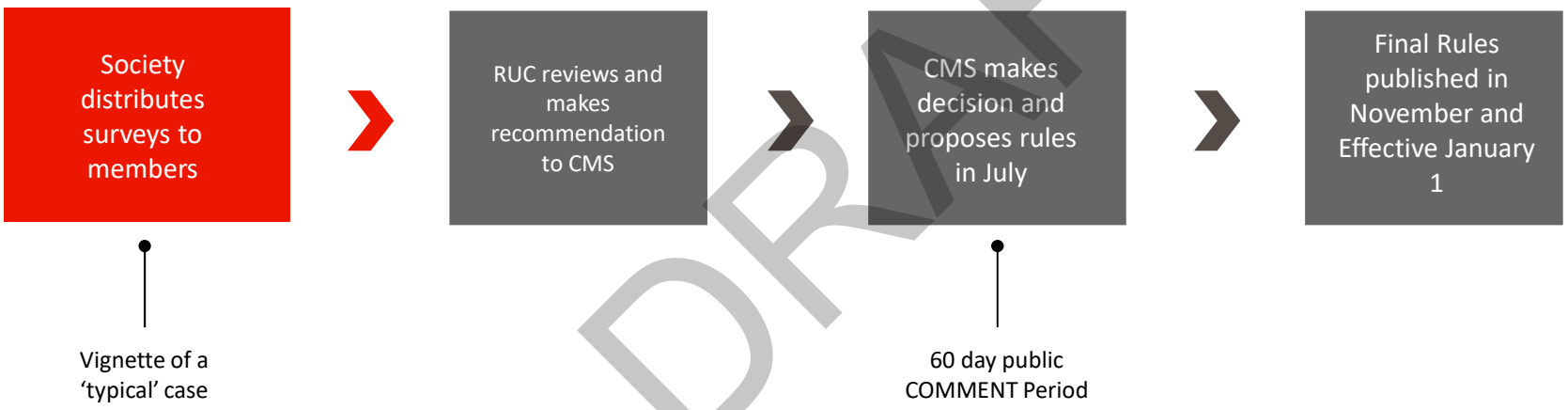


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Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) – Overview

Physician payment for a procedure is determined by the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which applies Relative Value Units (or RVUs) to CPT® codes and are the numeric values assigned to each CPT® code listed in the physician fee schedule.

How wRVUs are determined



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RUC = Relative Value Scale (RVS) Update Committee (RUC)

Note on Case Scenarios

The case scenario examples are provided only to illustrate possible coding and reimbursement scenarios. They are not intended as direction on how to conduct a procedure. Individual procedures will vary based on the physician's medical judgment. Medical necessity and appropriateness of any procedure is always specific to the facts of the individual case and as determined by the physician.

The primary focus of this presentation is on CPT® coding for procedures, as well as ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding criteria. If a procedure is performed as an outpatient, the facility would then report with the same CPT® codes as the physician; however, payment methodologies and bundling are often not the same, even when both facility and physician report with CPT® codes.

The reimbursement examples provided reflect 2025 Medicare national unadjusted allowables[1], not adjusted geographically.

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[1]CY 2025 CMS-1807-F, published by CMS on11/1/2024, conversion factor revised to $32.3465, effective January 2025.

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Scenario 1 – Atrial Fibrillation Ablation with Pulmonary Vein Isolation

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 55 yo M, presents in normal sinus rhythm for paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, diagnosed 3 months ago. Physician placed catheters and completed a transseptal puncture with assistance of intracardiac echo (ICE). Successful **isolation of all four pulmonary veins** occurred during the procedure, using 3-D mapping and ICE. Prior atrial flutter ablation checked and confirmed patent. Patient to remain on warfarin.	**93656**	Comprehensive EPS with pulmonary vein isolation for AFib, includes transseptal access, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping, and intracardiac echocardiography	17.00	27.72	$897
		Totals	**17.00**	27.72	$897

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THERMOCOOL® Navigation Catheters are approved for drug refractory recurrent symptomatic paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, when used with CARTO® 3 Systems (excluding NAVISTAR® RMT THERMOCOOL® Catheter).
The THERMOCOOL SMARTTOUCH® SF Catheter is indicated for the treatment of drug refractory recurrent symptomatic paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (AF) and for drug refractory recurrent symptomatic persistent AF (continuous AF > 7 days but < 1 year), refractory or intolerant to at least 1 Class I or III AAD, when used with the CARTO® 3 System.
In the US, Biosense Webster, Inc. THERMOCOOL® Non-Navigational Catheters are indicated for the treatment of Type I Atrial Flutter in patients 18 years of age or older.

Scenario 1 – Atrial Fibrillation Ablation with Pulmonary Vein Isolation

Documentation Notes

- A transesophageal echocardiogram is often performed prior to an EP study for atrial fibrillation, on the same or the previous date. Although some observations the TEE may be found in the ablation note, a separate complete interpretation report is expected to be in the chart – this report may also indicate whether spectral Doppler and/or color flow were used.
- 3-D mapping and intracardiac ultrasound are included in the descriptor for 93656, and not reported separately.
- The cavotricuspid isthmus (CTI) line from prior atrial flutter ablation is noted as “checked” and patent from prior ablation, so this is part of the diagnostic study and no additional procedure is reported.

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Scenario 1 – Atrial Fibrillation Ablation with Pulmonary Vein Isolation

Documentation Notes

Sometimes documentation for atrial fibrillation cases only briefly describes diagnostic EP measurements, with findings focused on atrial sites – particularly if the patient presents in AFib, it may not be possible to obtain diagnostic information prior to ablation.

Code 93656 was updated and now states that a **"Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation *with* transeptal catheterizations, insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, *induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing/recording*, and intracardiac catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation by pulmonary vein isolation, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, intracardiac echocardiography with imaging supervision and interpretation, right ventricular pacing/recording, and His bundle recording, *when performed*"**

CPT® Advisors have noted:

- "Left or right atrial pacing and recording" as well as "induction / attempted induction of arrhythmia" are the mandatory components of the comprehensive EP study for billing purposes.

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Scenario 1 – Atrial Fibrillation Ablation with Pulmonary Vein Isolation

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Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Code
Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation	**I48.0**
Long-term (current) use of anticoagulants	**Z79.01**

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Individual payor coverage policy should be confirmed. Coverage and reimbursement may vary between plans.

Patients with atrial fibrillation are often prescribed anticoagulants to reduce risk of stroke, which should be reported as a secondary diagnosis if documented.

Scenario 2 – Atrial Fibrillation Ablation and Atrial Flutter Ablation

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mrs. Webster, a 63 yo F, presents in NSR for PAF that was diagnosed 6 months ago. Typical flutter was also noted on a previous ECG. Physician placed catheters and completed transseptal puncture with assistance of ICE. Successful **isolation of PVIs** occurred during the procedure, using 3-D mapping and ICE. Conducted pacing protocol using **isoproterenol** and induced typical flutter. Ablated **CTI line** and patient converted to normal sinus rhythm during ablation. Bidirectional block confirmed using pacing maneuvers.	**93656**	Comprehensive EPS with pulmonary vein isolation for AFib, includes transseptal access, left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping, and intracardiac echocardiography	17.00	27.72	$897
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
	+93655	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia focus	5.50	8.98	$290
		Totals	**23.48**	**38.30**	**$1,239**

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[1] CY 2025 CMS-1807-F, published by CMS on11/1/2024, conversion factor revised to $32.3465, effective January 2025.

+ Add-on code. (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure). All add-on codes are exempt from multiple procedure payment reduction.
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Scenario 2 – Atrial Fibrillation Ablation and Atrial Flutter Ablation

Documentation Notes

Code 93657 is defined as “Additional linear or focal intracardiac catheter ablation of the left or right atrium for treatment of atrial fibrillation remaining after completion of pulmonary vein isolation.”

Since this code descriptor specifically references the diagnosis of atrial fibrillation, 93657 would not apply to atrial flutter ablation. The more appropriate code would be 93655.

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Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Code
Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation	**I48.0**
Typical atrial flutter	**I48.3**

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Scenario 3 – Extended Atrial Fibrillation Ablation and Atrial Flutter Ablation

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 70 yo M, presents in NSR for prior diagnoses of AFib and Aflutter. Physician placed catheters and completed transseptal puncture with assistance of ICE. Successful **isolation of pulmonary veins** occurred during the procedure, using 3-D mapping and ICE, followed by **sucessful ablation of SVC** due to sustained Afib. Conducted atrial pacing protocol with **isoproterenol** and induced typical flutter. Successful completion of **CTI lesion set**. New finding of tachy-brady syndrome, which will be monitored.	**93656**	Comprehensive EPS with pulmonary vein isolation for AFib, includes transseptal access, left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping, and intracardiac echocardiography	17.00	27.72	$897
	+93657	Ablate additional right or left atrial site for AFib	5.50	8.99	$291
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
	+93655	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia focus	5.50	8.98	$290
		Totals	**28.98**	**47.29**	**$1,530**

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[1] CY 2025 CMS-1807-F, published by CMS on11/1/2024, conversion factor revised to $32.3465, effective January 2025.

+ Add-on code. (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure). All add-on codes are exempt from multiple procedure payment reduction.
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Scenario 3 – Extended Atrial Fibrillation Ablation and Atrial Flutter Ablation

Documentation Notes

- Code 93657 is reported only in combination with 93656.
- Code 93655 may be reported in combination with any of the three “primary” ablation services, when two distinctly different arrhythmia mechanisms are treated.
- Codes 93655 and 93657 are not mutually exclusive and may be reported in conjunction with 93656 when documented.

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Scenario 3 – Extended Atrial Fibrillation Ablation and Atrial Flutter Ablation

Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Code
Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation	**I48.0**
Typical atrial flutter	**I48.3**
Sick sinus syndrome (tachy-brady syndrome)	**I49.5**

Notes: Any additional findings noted during a case (example shown: tachy-brady syndrome documented as a new finding) could be reported additionally, dependent upon physician documentation.

For example, findings described with terms such as “likely” or “not clinically significant” would not be reported. ICD-10-CM Guidelines instruct not to report diagnoses documented in terms of uncertainty – such as possible, probable, maybe, or rule out -- confirmation with the physician regarding his/her level of certainty is appropriate.

DRAFT

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Scenario 4 – Complex Atrial Fibrillation Ablation, Multiple Atrial Ablation

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mrs. Webster, a 68 yo F, presents in AFib for PsAF diagnosed 2 years ago. Physician placed catheters and completed transseptal puncture with assistance of ICE. Successful **isolation of PVIs** occurred during the procedure, using 3-D mapping and ICE. Successful isolation of **posterior wall** and additional **focal triggers** within the left atrium for Afib. Patient converted to **left atrial flutter**. Successful completion of mitral line lesion set. Patient converts to normal sinus rhythm during ablation. Conducted comprehensive EP study with **isoproterenol** and induced SVT identified as AVNRT. Ablated slow pathway for **AVNRT**.	**93656**	Comprehensive EPS with pulmonary vein isolation for AFib, includes transseptal access, left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping, and intracardiac echocardiography	17.00	27. 72	$897
	+93657	Ablate additional right or left atrial site for AFib	5.50	8.99	$291
	+93657	Ablate additional right or left atrial site for AFib	5.50	8.99	$291
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
	+93655	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia mechanism	5.50	8.98	$290
	+93655	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia mechanism	5.50	8.98	$290
Totals			**39.98**	**65.26**	**$2,111**

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Scenario 4 – Complex Atrial Fibrillation Ablation, Multiple Atrial Ablation

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Documentation Notes

- Complex ablation cases sometimes describe multiple additional sites. The CMS Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) indicate that either 93655 or 93657 may be reported up to a maximum of 2 units per case.
- It should be noted, however, that “unlikely” is not synonymous with “never”, and exceptions may be submitted for consideration; alternatively, modifier -22 could also be considered for complex cases -- documentation may be required.

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Scenario 4 – Complex Atrial Fibrillation Ablation, Multiple Atrial Ablation

Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Code
Other persistent atrial fibrillation	**I48.19**
Typical atrial flutter	**I48.3**
Atypical atrial flutter	**I48.4**

Notes: ICD-10-CM has multiple subclassifications for both atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter:

I48.0	Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
I48.11	Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.19	Other persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.20	Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified
I48.21	Permanent atrial fibrillation
I48.91	Unspecified atrial fibrillation

I48.3	Typical atrial flutter
I48.4	Atypical atrial flutter
I48.92	Unspecified atrial flutter

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Repeat Atrial Fibrillation Ablation

Questions sometimes arise regarding coding for a repeat atrial fibrillation ablation.

There are two possible options.

1. Report the repeat ablation with 93656, which is specifically defined for atrial fibrillation. It is appropriate to report 93656 for a second ablation service, as it is not uncommon that some patients will require more than one treatment for AFib. The CPT® section notes state, *"Code 93656 is a primary code for reporting treatment of atrial fibrillation by ablation to achieve complete pulmonary vein electrical isolation."* While this code includes ablation around all four pulmonary veins – which would be done at the first treatment — the intent is the achievement of isolation; the code does not require repeat ablation on all four sites, if one of the pulmonary veins was not fully isolated the first time or has reorganized.

2. If documentation indicates that the pulmonary vein isolation is complete / patent from the initial treatment, and the second intervention is specifically limited to other foci, a more conservative approach would be to report 93653 for an EP study with atrial ablation. One would then separately report transseptal access (93462) and intracardiac echocardiography (93662-26), if documented.

Code 93657 (Additional linear or focal intracardiac catheter ablation of the left or right atrium for treatment of atrial fibrillation remaining after completion of pulmonary vein isolation) is not appropriate, as it may not be reported stand-alone.

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Scenario 5 – Atrial Flutter or Tachycardia Ablation, Right Sided

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 40 yo M, presents to the EP lab in NSR with a history of atrial flutter. Conducted comprehensive diagnostic EP study, which resulted in the induction of typical, right-sided flutter. Successful **completion of CTI lesion set** for atrial flutter. Bidirectional block confirmed.	**93653**	Comprehensive EPS with atrial ablation, single focus, includes left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping	15.00	24.46	$791
Interrogation and programing of pacemaker performed pre and post EP study. Patient also has documented dilated cardiomyopathy.	**93286-26**	Peri-procedure device evaluation, pacemaker	0.30	0.43	$14
	93286-26	Peri-procedure device evaluation, pacemaker	0.30	0.43	$14
Totals			**15.6**	**25.32**	**$819**

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Scenario 5 – Atrial Flutter or Tachycardia Ablation, Right Sided

Documentation Notes

Peri-procedure pacemaker reprogramming noted; when performed both pre-procedure and post-procedure, 93286 may be reported twice. Of note, peri-procedural device evaluation is bundled in CCI with 93654 or 93656, but separately reportable with 93653.

Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Code
Typical atrial flutter	**I48.3**
Dilated cardiomyopathy (congestive)	**I42.0**
Presence of cardiac pacemaker	**Z95.0**

DRAFT

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Scenario 6 – Atrial Flutter or Tachycardia Ablation, Left Sided

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 43 yo M, presents to the EP lab in NSR with a history of atrial flutter. Conducted comprehensive EP study including programmed atrial stimulation with **isoproterenol**. This induced left sided atrial flutter. Catheters were placed and **transseptal puncture** was performed using **ICE**. **Anterior mitral lesion** set was performed, and patient converted to NSR. Bidirectional block was then confirmed.	**93653**	Comprehensive EPS with atrial ablation, single focus, includes left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping	15.00	24.46	$791
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
	93462	Transseptal puncture	3.73	6.06	$196
	+93662-26	Intracardiac echocardiography	1.44	2.06	$67
Totals			**21.15**	**34.18**	**$1,106**

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Scenario 6 – Atrial Flutter or Tachycardia Ablation, Left Sided

Documentation Note:

While code 93656 includes in its definition any transseptal catheterization and intracardiac echocardiography, these procedures would be reported additionally with 93653 when performed and documented.

Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Code
Atypical atrial flutter	**I48.4**

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In the US, Biosense Webster, Inc. THERMOCOOL® Non-Navigational Catheters are indicated for the treatment of Type I Atrial Flutter in patients 18 years of age or older.

Scenario 7 – Atrial Tachycardia Ablation, Dual Mechanisms, Right Sided

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 50 yo M, presents to the EP lab in NSR with a history of atrial flutter. Conducted comprehensive diagnostic EP study, which resulted in the induction of typical, right-sided flutter. Successful completion of **CTI lesion set** performed for atrial flutter, using 3-D mapping.	**93653**	Comprehensive EPS with atrial ablation, single focus, includes left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping	15.00	24.46	$791
Atrial tachycardia was present following atrial flutter ablation. **Atrial tachycardia** trigger was successfully ablated.	**+93655**	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia focus	5.50	8.98	$290
Totals			**20.5**	**33.44**	**$1,081**

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Scenario 7 – Atrial Tachycardia Ablation, Dual Mechanisms, Right Sided

Documentation Notes

Code 93655 is reported in combination with any of the three “primary” ablation services, when two distinctly different arrhythmia foci are treated. This could represent:

- two different atrial pathways,
- two different ventricular mechanisms,
- one atrial and one ventricular arrhythmia, or
- a distinct arrhythmia in conjunction with paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, such as atrial flutter or other atrial tachycardia.

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Diagnosis	ICD-10 CM Code
Typical atrial flutter	**I48.3**
Supraventricular tachycardia (paroxysmal) Atrial (paroxysmal) tachycardia Atrioventricular re-entrant (nodal) tachycardia [AVNRT]	**I47.19**

AV nodal re-entry tachycardia is captured by I47.19 -- which incorporates both paroxysmal and other atrial tachycardias, and specifically references AVNRT. If both mechanisms are atrial tachycardias, the same code may apply to both.

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Scenario 8 – Atrial Ablation, Dual Mechanisms, Right and Left Sided

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 71 yo M, has a previous history of afib with PVI ablation 5 years ago. He has been doing well, but recently presented to the office with documented flutter. Conducted comprehensive, diagnostic EP study with **isoproterenol** and induced left-sided flutter.	**93653**	Comprehensive EPS with atrial ablation, single focus, includes left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping	15.00	24.46	$791
Catheters were placed and **transseptal puncture** was performed using **ICE**.	**+93623-26**	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
Anterior mitral lesion set was performed and patient converted to NSR. Bidirectional block was then confirmed. Pulmonary vein isolation was also confirmed.	**+93462**	Transseptal puncture	3.73	6.06	$196
	+93662-26	Intracardiac echocardiography	1.44	2.06	$67
Atrial pacing protocol was performed using isoproterenol and typical right sided flutter was induced. **CTI lesion set** completed for atrial flutter. Patient converted to NSR and bidirectional block was confirmed.	**+93655**	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia focus	5.50	8.98	$290
Totals			**26.65**	**43.16**	**$1,396**

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Scenario 8 – Atrial Ablation, Dual Mechanisms, Right and Left Sided

Diagnosis	ICD-10 CM Code
Atypical atrial flutter	**I48.4**
Typical atrial flutter	**I48.3**

DRAFT

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Scenario 9 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Right Sided

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mr. Webster, a 65 Yo M presents for PVCs observed during external monitoring. Ultrasound guidance is used for femoral vascular access. Localization of the PVC occurred using 3-D mapping. **Ablation at the focal site** resulted in elimination of the PVCs.	**93654**	Comprehensive EPS with ventricular ablation, includes 3-D mapping, left atrial and/or ventricular pacing & recording	18.10	29.48	$954
Totals			**18.10**	**29.48**	**$954**

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In the US, 4mm Catheters (NAVISTAR® Catheter, CELSIUS® Catheter, EZ STEER® Catheter (NAV and Non-NAV)) have a "General Indication" for creation of endocardial lesions in patients 4 years of age and older. This "General Indication" includes treatment of Ventricular Tachycardia.

Scenario 9 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Right Sided

Documentation Notes

Although documented as performed, the CCI Policy Manual (2024 excerpt below) states that ultrasound guidance is bundled with all electrophysiology procedures, and was revised January 1, 2019, to include specific reference to 76937.

"21. Many Pacemaker/Implantable Defibrillator procedures (CPT codes 33202-33275) and

Intracardiac EP procedures (CPT codes 93600-93662) require intravascular placement of catheters into coronary vessels or cardiac chambers under fluoroscopic guidance. Providers/suppliers shall not separately report cardiac catheterization or selective vascular catheterization CPT codes for placement of these catheters. A cardiac catheterization CPT code is separately reportable if it is a medically reasonable, necessary, and distinct service performed at the same or different patient encounter. Fluoroscopy codes (e.g., CPT code 76000) are not separately reportable with the procedures described by CPT codes 33202-33275 and 93600-93662. Fluoroscopy

codes intended for specific procedures may be reported separately. Additionally, ultrasound guidance is not separately reportable with these CPT codes. Providers/suppliers shall not report CPT codes 76937, 76942, 76998, 93318, or other ultrasound procedural codes if the ultrasound procedure is performed for guidance during one of the procedures described by CPT codes 33202-33275 or 93600-93662.

Code 93654 includes mapping (93609 or 93613) in its definition, so mapping would also not be reported separately.

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Scenario 9 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Right Sided

Diagnosis	ICD-10 CM Code
Ventricular premature depolarization	**I49.3**

I49.1	Atrial premature depolarization
I49.2	Junctional premature depolarization
I49.3	Ventricular premature depolarization
I49.40	Unspecified premature depolarization
I49.49	Other premature depolarization

Notes: ICD-10-CM uses the terminology "premature depolarization," which may be referenced in the clinical documentation as "premature contractions," including abbreviations such as PVC< and includes codes for multiple distinct types.

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Scenario 10 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Left Sided

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mrs. Webster, a 70 yo F, presents in NSR for ablation of ischemic VT due to diagnosed coronary artery disease. Ventricular programmed stimulation is performed with **isoproterenol** which induces left-sided VT. Catheters were placed and **transseptal puncture** was performed using **ICE**. Successful delivery of **ablation lesion set within the LV scar** area treats the VT.	**93654**	Comprehensive EPS with ventricular ablation, includes 3-D mapping, left atrial and/or ventricular pacing & recording	18.10	29.48	$954
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
	93462	Transseptal puncture	3.73	6.06	$196
	+93662-26	Intracardiac echocardiography	1.44	2.06	$67
Totals			**24.25**	**39.2**	**$1,269**

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Scenario 10 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Left Sided

Documentation Notes

Although mapping (93609 or 93613), left atrial (93621) pacing/recording, and left ventricular pacing/recording (93622) are bundled with 93654, transseptal puncture (93462) and intracardiac ultrasound (93662) may be separately reported, if performed.

Diagnosis	ICD-10 CM Code
Ventricular tachycardia	**I47.20**
Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary arteries without angina pectoris	**I25.10**
*Old myocardial infarction (scar)****	***I25.2***

*** While documentation references a left ventricular scar as the tachycardia focus, confirmation or statement of a prior MI in the chart would be required to report I25.2.

DRAFT

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Scenario 11 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Dual Mechanisms

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Mrs. Webster, an 80 yo F, presents in NSR for ablation of ischemic VT due to diagnosed CAD. Comprehensive EP Study is performed with induction of left-sided VT . Catheters were placed and **transseptal puncture** was performed using **ICE**. Successful delivery of **ablation lesion set within the LV scar** area treats the VT. Ventricular programmed stim was performed with **isoproterenol** to induce a 2nd clinical VT. Additional **ablation performed along the edge of the scar** to successfully treat the 2nd VT.	**93654**	Comprehensive EPS with ventricular ablation, includes 3-D mapping, left atrial and/or ventricular pacing & recording	18.10	29.48	$954
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation using IV drug	0.98	1.60	$52
	93462	Transseptal puncture	3.73	6.06	$196
	+93662-26	Intracardiac echocardiography	1.44	2.06	$67
	+93655	Ablate additional discrete arrhythmia focus	5.50	8.98	$290
Totals			**29.75**	**48.18**	**$1,559**

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Scenario 11 – Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation, Dual Mechanisms

Diagnosis	ICD-10 CM Code
Ventricular tachycardia	**I47.20**
Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary arteries without angina pectoris	**I25.10**
Old myocardial infarction (scar)	***I25.2***

Documentation states that there are two identified clinical mechanisms of ventricular tachycardia, there is only a single ICD-10-CM code which would be reported for the arrhythmia. As in case scenario 10, confirmation or statement of a prior MI in the chart would be required to report I25.2.

DRAFT

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In the US, 4mm Catheters (NAVISTAR® Catheter, CELSIUS® Catheter, EZ STEER® Catheter (NAV and Non-NAV)) have a "General Indication" for creation of endocardial lesions in patients 4 years of age and older. This "General Indication" includes treatment of Ventricular Tachycardia.

Scenario 12 – EP Study, AV Node Ablation

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVUs	Total RVUs	Reimbursement[1]
Physician placed catheters and recorded a **His bundle electrogram**.	**93600-26**	Bundle of His recording	2.12	3.38	$109
Ablation of the AV node was completed successfully.	**93650**	AV node ablation	10.24	17.05	$552
Totals			**12.36**	**20.43**	**$661**

Notes: AV node ablation might be performed on a patient in preparation for implantation of a pacemaker or ICD, or otherwise related to improving performance the device.

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Scenario 13 – Concomitant Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC) Device & AF Ablation

Vignette	CPT® Code	Description	Work RVU	Total RVU	Reimbursement[1]
Patient had a diagnostic EP study with left atrial pacing and recording via transseptal puncture. Left atrial **pulmonary vein isolation** for treatment of drug refractory paroxysmal atrial fibrillation using 3-D mapping and intracardiac ultrasound; **programmed stimulation with IV drug** **Intracardiac echocardiography** is used in the LAAC portion of the procedure for guidance to measure the LAA ostium width and length in multiple views. An appropriately sized **implant is placed into the left atrial appendage and deployed**. Implant release and stability are confirmed by ICE.	**93656**	Comprehensive EPS with pulmonary vein isolation for AFib, includes transseptal access, left atrial pacing & recording, 3-D mapping, and intracardiac echocardiography	17.00	27.72	$897
	33340	Percutaneous transcatheter closure of left atrial appendage with endocardial implant	14.00 x 50% MPR = 7	22.87 x 50% MPR =11.44	$740 x 50% MPR=$370
	+93623-26	Programmed stimulation with IV drug	.98	1.60	$52
	+93662-26, -59	Intracardiac echocardiography	1.44	2.06	$67
Totals			**26.42**	**42.82**	**$1,386**

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Standard payment rules apply. This multiple procedure reduction example is only applicable to those codes with a designation of "2". If the procedure is reported on the same day as another procedure the following applies: Highest valued procedure: 100%, Second, third, fourth, and fifth valued procedures: 50% each procedure beyond the fifth: by report

1 CY 2025 CMS-1807-F, published by CMS on11/1/2024, conversion factor revised to $32.3465, effective January 2025+ Add-on code. (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure). All add-on codes are exempt from multiple procedure payment reduction. CPT™ is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Scenario 13 – Concomitant Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC) Device & AF Ablation

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Notes

- **Although ICE (93662) is bundled into the AFIB ablation, CCI edits allow for the use of a modifier to bypass these edits when medically necessary.**
- **If ICE is also used to guide the LAAC procedure, the physician can submit the code for ICE with a modifier -59, which would be an additional 1.44 wRVUs assigned for ICE**
- **Distinct Procedural Service:** Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to indicate that a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other non-E/M services performed on the same day. Modifier 59 is used to identify procedures/services, other than E/M services, that are not normally reported together but are appropriate under the circumstances.

Additional Structural Heart Procedures reportable with ICE

CPT® Codes	Description	2025 Total RVU's
33418	Transcatheter mitral valve repair	52.93
33741	Transcatheter atrial septostomy (TAS)	22.02
33745	Transcatheter intracardiac shunt (TIS) creation	31.46
0345T	Transcatheter mitral valve repair	Carrier Priced
0483T	Transcatheter mitral valve implantation/replacement (TMVI)	Carrier Priced
0484T	Transcatheter mitral valve implantation/replacement (TMVI); transthoracic exposure	Carrier Priced
0543T	Transapical mitral valve repair	Carrier Priced
0544T	Transcatheter mitral valve annulus reconstruction	Carrier Priced
0545T	Transcatheter tricuspid valve annulus reconstruction	Carrier Priced
92997	Percutaneous transluminal pulmonary artery balloon angioplasty	18.55

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Intracardiac echocardiography (ICE) using 4-D technology is still captured under CPT® code 93662. This code is not dependent on the use of 2-D or 4-D technology therefore is appropriate for use when reporting 4-D ICE procedures.

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Scenario Summary for Fee For Service (MEDICARE ONLY)

Ablation Procedure		2024 Unadjusted Reimbursement[1]	2025 Unadjusted Reimbursement[2]
AF	#1 - Atrial fibrillation, pulmonary vein isolation	$907	$897
	#2 - Atrial fibrillation + atrial flutter ablation	$1,265	$1,239
	#3 - Atrial fibrillation, extended + atrial flutter	$1,558	$1,530
	#4 - Atrial fibrillation, complex + atrial flutter + SVT	$2,144	$2,111
SVT	#5 - Atrial flutter or tachycardia, right sided	$828	$819
	#6 - Atrial flutter or tachycardia, left sided	$1,130	$1,106
	#7 - Atrial tachycardia, dual mechanisms, right	$1,093	$1,081
	#8 - Atrial tachycardia, dual mechanisms, right and left	$1,423	$1,396
VT	#9 - Ventricular tachycardia, right sided	$963	$954
	#10 - Ventricular tachycardia, left sided	$1,293	$1,269
	#11 - Ventricular tachycardia, dual mechanism	$1,586	$1,559
AV	#12 - EP study w/o induction, AV node ablation	$668	$661
LAAO	#14 - Placement of LAAC + PVI ablation	$1,281	$1,386

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1. CY 2024 Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule [CMS-1785-F], Federal Register (Vol. 88, Issue 165), August 28, 2023; Final: National Average DRG Payment; effective October 1, 2023.
2. CY 2025 Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule [CMS-1808-F], https://federalregister.gov/d/2024-17021, August 1, 2024; Final Rule

THERMOCOOL® Navigation Catheters are approved for drug refractory recurrent symptomatic paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, when used with CARTO® 3 Systems (excluding NAVISTAR® RMT THERMOCOOL® Catheter). The THERMOCOOL SMARTTOUCH® SF Catheter is indicated for the treatment of drug refractory recurrent symptomatic paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (AF) and for drug refractory recurrent symptomatic persistent AF (continuous AF > 7 days but < 1 year), refractory or intolerant to at least 1 Class I or III AAD, when used with the CARTO® 3 System. In the US, Biosense Webster, Inc. THERMOCOOL® Non-Navigational Catheters are indicated for the treatment of Type I Atrial Flutter in patients 18 years of age or older. THERMOCOOL® Navigation Catheters are indicated for the treatment of recurrent drug/device refractory sustained monomorphic ventricular tachycardia (VT) due to prior myocardial infarction (MI) in adults. In the US, 4mm Catheters (NAVISTAR® Catheter, CELSIUS® Catheter, EZ STEER® Catheter (NAV and Non-NAV)) have a "General Indication" for creation of endocardial lesions in patients 4 years of age and older. This "General Indication" includes treatment of Ventricular Tachycardia.

Coding and Documentation Improvement

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J&J MedTech

Electrophysiology

Coding and Documentation Improvement

Accurate coding and reimbursement for physicians and facilities is based upon complete clinical documentation. The best records:

- Capture a concise and specific description of services.
- Implement a standard dictation format to ensure complete data capture.
- Strive for clinical clarity for accurate procedure and diagnosis code selection.
- Ensure *all* records are:
  - Legible, dated, timed, signed, and timely
  - Consistent and without internal contradictory statements
- Recognize the EP lab procedure log as supportive procedure information only. The physician's dictation ultimately determines the ability to assign codes.
- Maintain policy that no changes are made to documentation unless approved by the physician.

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Best Practices for Coding and Documentation

Detailed narrative description within the EP procedure report is essential for correct coding and accurate reimbursement. The best reports:

- State clear clinical indications, including all diagnoses, arrhythmia subtypes, symptoms, prior conservative treatments and therapies. Include type, duration and results.
- Describe procedural approach for accessing the anatomy.
- Identify all pacing and recording sites.
- Document the rationale when less than a comprehensive study is performed.
- **Specify sites ablated, including:**
  - Ablation of a discrete mechanism of arrhythmia which is distinct from the primary ablated mechanism
  - Additional linear or focal atrial ablation for treatment of AFIB remaining following pulmonary vein isolation
- **Provide clear identification of techniques used:**
  - Energy source(s) used (RF/PFA/Cryo)
  - Three-dimensional (3-D) mapping
  - Programmed stimulation with IV drug
  - Transseptal puncture, if performed
  - Ultrasound, including key terms for either transesophageal or intracardiac echo
- Indicate catheters and other items used to assist hospitals in reporting C-codes for device dependent procedures.
- Confirm diagnostic findings and observations.
- Report procedure results.
- Summarize planned follow-up and anticipated outcomes

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Reimbursement Matters: J&J MedTech Resources

Reimbursement is a key component of a successful EP program

Reimbursement and Coding Guide	**EP Procedure Documentation Best Practices**	**Electrophysiology Coding Checklist**	**CMS Final Rules for EP Related Services**	**VARIPULSE™ Catheter PFA Reimbursement Guide**
Coding & Reimbursement Frequently Asked Questions	**Coding & Reimbursement Webinars**	**Access to Reimbursement Support Services**	**Online HCPCS C-Code Finder**	**Concomitant LAAC and Cardiac Ablation FAQ**

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For additional questions or information please contact: JNJMedTechEPreimbursement@its.jnj.com or 800.362.2048
Reimbursement resources are available for download at: https://www.jnjmedtech.com/en-US/reimbursement-resources

Thank you for joining this webcast.

Presented by:
Jennifer Varela
AVANIA, LLC

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For additional questions or assistance contact J&J MedTech Electrophysiology Reimbursement Support Services:

JNJMedTechEPreimbursement@its.jnj.com or 800.362.2048