

## ASTS Handy Guide on Professional Coding

Dear Colleagues,

March 1, 2024

The ASTS Business Practice Services Committee and Legislative and Regulatory Committee are happy to update the original 2012 CPT guide for transplant professionals with 2024 information.

We hope that you find this handy guide easy to use and helpful. Please refer to your latest edition of the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT Professional Edition for additional codes, terminology, rules, and guidelines and discuss this with your professional and hospital coding specialists. We also are supplying free online resources on the CMS website that are updated with new information every year.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Andreoni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct dot over the 'i' at the end.

Ken Andreoni, MD, FACS

## **Heart/Lung Transplantation**

Recipient heart with or without lung allotransplantation

(For artificial heart systems with cardiectomy, see category III codes 0051T-0053T)

33930 Donor cardiectomy-pneumonectomy including cold preservation

33933 Backbench preparation of cadaver donor heart/lung prior to transplantation

33935 Heart-lung transplant with recipient cardiectomy-pneumonectomy

33940 Donor cardiectomy (including cold preservation)

33944 Backbench preparation of cadaver donor heart prior to transplantation

33945 Heart transplant, with or without recipient cardiectomy

## **Intestinal Transplantation**

### **Allograft Preparation**

44715 Backbench preparation of cadaver or living donor intestine prior to transplantation

44720 Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor allograft, **venous** anastomosis, each

44721 Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor allograft, **arterial** anastomosis, each

44799 Unlisted procedure, intestine

### **Allotransplantation**

44135 Intestinal allotransplantation, from cadaver donor

44136 From living donor

44137 Removal of transplanted intestinal allograft, complete

44139 Mobilization of splenic flexure performed in conjunction with partial colectomy

44140 Colectomy, partial with anastomosis

44015 Needle catheter jejunostomy (surgical feeding tube)

43500 Gastrostomy, exploration (surgical G-tube)

### **Donor Enterectomy**

44132 Donor enterectomy (including preservation), open from cadaver

44133 partial, from living donor

## **Liver Transplantation**

47133 Donor hepatectomy (including preservation) from cadaver

47135 Liver allotransplantation; orthotopic, partial or whole

47140 Living donor hepatectomy (including preservation), left lateral segment (II, III)

47141 total left lobectomy (segments II, III and IV)

47142 total right lobectomy (segments V, VI, VII, VIII)

47143 Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor whole liver graft, including cholecystectomy; without trisegmentectomy or lobe split

47144 with trisegment split of whole liver graft into 2 partial liver grafts (ie. left lateral segment (II, III))  
44145 with lobe split of whole liver graft into 2 partial liver grafts (ie. left lobe and right lobe segment)  
47146 Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor allograft, **venous** anastomosis, each  
47147 Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor allograft, **arterial** anastomosis, each  
47780 Anastomosis, Roux en Y, of extrahepatic duct (fuse bile ducts to bowel)  
47785 Fuse Intrahepatic bile ducts to bowel  
47800 Duct to duct anastomosis (Choledochocholedocostomy)  
47801 Placement of choledochal stent  
47802 Fuse liver duct and intestine (choledochoduodenostomy)  
47900 Suture bile duct injury  
47001 Liver Needle Biopsy when done with other procedure

### **Other Liver Procedures**

47350 Management of liver hemorrhage, simple suture  
47360 complex suture of liver wound or injury  
47361 extensive debridement, coagulation w w/o packing  
47362 re-exploration of hepatic wound for removal of packing  
48000 Drainage of abdomen  
49000 Exploration of Abdomen  
49002 Re-Opening of Abdomen  
35840 Re-Opening for hemorrhage (some coders may not allow this for abd)

### **Lung Transplantation**

32850 Donor pneumonectomy(s)(including cold preservation)  
32851 Lung transplant, single; without cardiopulmonary bypass  
32852 with cardiopulmonary bypass  
32853 Lung transplant, double (bilateral sequential or en bloc)  
32854 with cardiopulmonary bypass  
32855 Backbench standard preparation of single cadaver donor lung allograft  
32856 Backbench bilateral lung preparation

### **Pancreas Transplantation**

48160 Pancreatectomy, total or subtotal, with autologous transplantation of pancreas or islet cells  
48550 Donor pancreatectomy (including cold preservation), with or without duodenal segment for transplantation  
48551 Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor allograft prior to transplantation including splenectomy, duodenotomy, CBD ligation, Y graft arterial anastomosis  
48552 Backbench reconstruction of donor pancreas, venous anastomosis, each  
48554 Transplantation of pancreas allograft  
48556 Removal of transplanted pancreatic allograft  
48999 Unlisted procedure, pancreas

## **Renal Transplantation**

- 50300 Donor nephrectomy (including cold preservation); from cadaver donor, unilateral or bilateral
- 50320 Remove kidney open from living donor (Donor Nephrectomy)
- 50323 Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor renal allograft prior to transplantation.
- 50325 Backbench standard preparation of living donor renal allograft prior to transplantation
- 50327 Backbench reconstruction of cadaver or living donor renal allograft prior to transplantation; venous anastomosis each
- 50328 arterial anastomosis, each
- 50329 ureteral anastomosis, each
- 50340 Recipient nephrectomy (separate procedure; removal of native kidney)
- 50360 Renal allotransplantation, implantation of graft; without recipient nephrectomy
- 50365 with recipient nephrectomy
- 50370 Removal of transplanted renal allograft
- 50380 Renal autotransplantation, reimplantation of kidney
- 50605 Insertion of indwelling stent, all types
- 50500 Repair of kidney wound
- 50547 Lap removal donor kidney (Lap donor nephrectomy)
- 50760 Fusion of ureters
- 50780 Reimplant of ureter in bladder
- 52310 Cystoscopy with simple removal of ureteral stent

## **Hemodialysis Access**

- 36800 Insertion of cannula for hemodialysis
- 36810 arteriovenous, external (Scribner type)
- 36815 arteriovenous, external revision, or closure
- 36818 Arteriovenous anastomosis, open; upper arm cephalic vein transposition
- 36819 Arteriovenous anastomosis, open; upper arm basilic vein transposition
- 36820 Arteriovenous anastomosis, open; by forearm vein transposition
- 36821 Arteriovenous anastomosis, open; direct, any site (eg Cimino type)

## **Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter**

- 49422 Removal PD Catheter
- 49421 Open placement PD Catheter
- 49324 Laparoscopic placement PD Catheter (Omentopexy add-on 49326)
- 49435 Add on for subcutaneous extension of catheter (eg to chest in obese patient)
- 49436 Delayed creation of exit site for previously embedded subcutaneous PD Catheter

## **Abdominal Wall Hernias: (new 2023)**

- 49591 Any anterior abd wall initial, reducible hernia (open or lap), includes mesh if used, less than 3 cm (same, but recurrent hernia: 49613)
- 49592 – as above, incarcerated or strangulated less than 3 cm (recurrent 49614)
- 49593 – as 49591 (reducible), but 3 to 10 cm total length (recurrent 49615)
- 49594 – as 49592 (incarcerated / strangulated), but 3 to 10 cm total length (recur 49616)
- 49595 – as 49591 (reducible), but > 10 cm total length (recurrent 49617)
- 49596 - as 49592 (incarcerated / strangulated), but > 10 cm total length (recurrent 49618)

## **Commonly Used Procedure Modifiers**

**22\* Unusual procedure.** Use this for procedures that require additional work (e.g. lysis of adhesions, retransplant etc) or are very difficult. \* must specify level of difficulty 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% more than usual. Op note must support level. TAllows for additional charges based on percent specified.

**58 Staged Procedure.** Use this for planned take back operation. (abdominal packing for 24 hours, etc) . Allows for additional charge above primary procedure.

**62 Two Surgeons/Different Skills.** Use this when two attendings perform a case together and can split the case into two parts. Requires two operative notes from each surgeon to add up to one whole case. (e.g. One surgeon dictates backbench and implant graft; other surgeon dictates native organ removal). Allows charges at 125% rather than usual 110% (100% attending, 10% assistant fee).

### **80 Assistant Surgeon**

**82 Assistant Surgeon** when no qualified resident is available.

80 or 82 Allows 10% assistant fee per CMS guidelines. Standard major transplant operations qualify (50360.82, 47135.82, 48544.82). Documentation of the non-availability of a qualified resident is suggested.

See CPT book for additional codes and modifiers.

CPT code and RVU online resources:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/physician-fee-schedule/search/overview>

2024 all RVUs in downloaded zip excel files:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/fee-schedules/physician/pfs-relative-value-files/rvu24a>

RVU files all years: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/fee-schedules/physician/pfs-relative-value-files>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/physician-fee-schedule/search>