Dear Colleagues,

The ASTS Reimbursement Committee is happy to provide you with this handy guide for transplant surgery professional coding from the 2012 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) listings. In collaboration with the Standards on Organ Transplantation Committee, the Reimbursement Committee is working to develop aids for transplant surgeons to ensure they are properly compensated and get credit for work they perform.

It is advised that you consider developing billing instruments (billing sheets, electronic transfer, etc.) to communicate with your billing department about the work that you perform. Examples have been previously distributed and posted on the ASTS website as prepared by the Standards Committee.

Even though many transplant operative procedures are reimbursed by “case-rates,” accurate capture of all procedures performed will help ensure that you receive proper reimbursement as well as Relative Value Unit (RVU) credit, a metric often used by administration to assess clinical productivity.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Pomposelli, MD, PhD
Chairman, ASTS Reimbursement Committee
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
47136 heterotopic, partial or whole, from cadaver or living donor, any age
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
47785 Intrahepatic
47800 Duct to duct anastomosis (Choledochocholedocostomy)
47801 Placement of choledochal stent

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

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 cadaver donor lung allograft
32856 bilateral 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
48552 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 open from living donor
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)
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

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)

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. Allows 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).

See CPT book for additional codes and modifiers.