

## ASTS Handy Guide on Professional Coding

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,

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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.