

2026 Complete Table of Contents
Medicare NCCI Coding Policy Manual

Introduction

Introduction Purpose	Intro-3
NCCI Program Background	Intro-4
Policy Manual Background	Intro-5
Edit Development and Review Process	Intro-6
Correspondence with CMS about the Medicare NCCI Program and its Contents	Intro-8
Submitting and Appeal	Intro-8
Other Payors	Intro-9

Chapter I – General Correct Coding Policies

A. Introduction	I-3
B. Coding Based on Standards of Medical/Surgical Practice	I-6
C. Medical/Surgical Package	I-9
D. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services Modifiers	I-12
E. Modifiers and Modifier Indicators	I-14
F. Standard Preparation/Monitoring Services for Anesthesia	I-20
G. Anesthesia Service Included in the Surgical Procedure	I-20
H. HCPCS/CPT Procedure Code Definition	I-21
I. <i>CPT Professional</i> Codebook and CMS Coding Manual Instructions	I-22
J. CPT “Separate Procedure” Definition	I-23
K. Family of Codes	I-23
L. More Extensive Procedure	I-23
M. Sequential Procedure	I-24
N. Laboratory Panel	I-25

O. Misuse of Column Two Code with Column One Code	
(Misuse of Code Edit Rationale)	I-25
P. Mutually Exclusive Procedures	I-26
Q. Reserved for future use	I-26
R. Add-on Codes	I-26
S. Excluded Service	I-27
T. Unlisted Procedure Codes	I-27
U. Reserved for future use	I-27
V. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	I-28
W. Add-on Code Edit Tables	I-35

Chapter II – Anesthesia Services
(CPT codes 00000 – 01999)

A. Introduction	II-3
B. Standard Anesthesia Coding	II-4
C. Radiologic Anesthesia Coding	II-11
D. Monitored Anesthesia Care	II-12
E. General Policy Statements	II-12

Chapter III – Surgery: Integumentary System
(CPT Codes 10000 – 19999)

A. Introduction	III-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	III-3
C. Anesthesia	III-5
D. Incision and Drainage	III-6
E. Lesion Removal	III-6
F. Mohs Micrographic Surgery	III-8
G. Intralesional Injections	III-8
H. Repair and Tissue Transfer	III-9
I. Grafts and Flaps	III-9

J. Breast (Incision, Excision, Introduction, Repair and Reconstruction)	III-10
K. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	III-12
L. General Policy Statements	III-13

Chapter IV – Surgery: Musculoskeletal System
(CPT Codes 20000 – 29999)

A. Introduction	IV-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	IV-3
C. Anesthesia	IV-5
D. Biopsy	IV-5
E. Arthroscopy	IV-5
F. Spine (Vertebral Column)	IV-7
G. Fractures, Dislocations, and Casting/Splinting/Strapping	IV-10
H. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	IV-13
I. General Policy Statements	IV-15

Chapter V – Surgery: Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Hemic and Lymphatic Systems
(CPT Codes 30000 – 39999)

A. Introduction	V-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	V-3
C. Respiratory System	V-4
D. Cardiovascular System	V-10
E. Hemic and Lymphatic Systems	V-17
F. Mediastinum	V-18
G. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	V-18
H. General Policy Statements	V-19

Chapter VI – Surgery: Digestive System
(CPT Codes 40000 – 49999)

A. Introduction	VI-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	VI-3
C. Endoscopic Services	VI-4
D. Esophageal Procedures	VI-7
E. Abdominal Procedures	VI-7
F. Laparoscopy	VI-9
G. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	VI-10
H. General Policy Statements	VI-11

**Chapter VII – Surgery: Urinary, Male Genital,
Female Genital, Maternity Care and Delivery Systems**
(CPT Codes 50000 – 59999)

A. Introduction	VII-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	VII-3
C. Urinary System	VII-4
D. Male Genital System	VII-9
E. Female Genital System	VII-9
F. Laparoscopy	VII-11
G. Maternity Care and Delivery	VII-12
H. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	VII-12
I. General Policy Statements	VII-13

**Chapter VIII – Surgery: Endocrine, Nervous, Eye and Ocular,
Adnexa and Auditory Systems**
(CPT Codes 60000 – 69999)

A. Introduction	VIII-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	VIII-3
C. Nervous System	VIII-4
D. Ophthalmology	VIII-11
E. Auditory System	VIII-15
F. Operating Microscope	VIII-15
G. Laparoscopy	VIII-16
H. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	VIII-17
I. General Policy Statements	VIII-19

Chapter IX – Radiology Services
(CPT Codes 70000 – 79999)

A. Introduction	IX-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	IX-3
C. Non-interventional Diagnostic Imaging	IX-5
D. Interventional/Invasive Diagnostic Imaging	IX-8
E. Nuclear Medicine	IX-11
F. Radiation Oncology	IX-13
G. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	IX-15
H. General Policy Statements	IX-16

Chapter X – Pathology and Laboratory Services
(CPT Codes 80000 – 89999)

A. Introduction	X-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	X-4
C. Organ or Disease Oriented Panels	X-6
D. Evocative/Suppression Testing	X-6
E. Drug Testing	X-6
F. Molecular Pathology	X-7
G. Chemistry	X-8
H. Hematology and Coagulation	X-9
I. Immunology	X-10
J. Transfusion Medicine	X-10
K. Microbiology	X-11
L. Anatomic Pathology (Cytopathology and Surgical Pathology)	X-12
M. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	X-15
N. General Policy Statements	X-20

Chapter XI – Medicine and Evaluation and Management Services
(CPT Codes 90000 – 99999)

A. Introduction	XI-3
B. Therapeutic or Diagnostic Infusions/Injections and Immunizations	XI-3
C. Psychiatric Services	XI-7
D. Biofeedback	XI-8
E. Dialysis	XI-8
F. Gastroenterology	XI-9
G. Ophthalmology	XI-10
H. Otorhinolaryngologic Services	XI-10
I. Cardiovascular Services	XI-12
J. Pulmonary Services	XI-18

K. Allergy Testing and Immunotherapy	XI-21
L. Neurology and Neuromuscular Procedures	XI-21
M. Central Nervous System (CNS) Assessments/Tests	XI-23
N. Chemotherapy Administration	XI-23
O. Special Dermatological Procedures	XI-25
P. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	XI-25
Q. Medical Nutrition Therapy	XI-27
R. Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment	XI-28
S. Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment	XI-28
T. Miscellaneous Services	XI-28
U. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	XI-29
V. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	XI-33
W. General Policy Statements	XI-37

Chapter XII – Supplemental Services
(HCPCS Level II Codes A0000 – V9999)

A. Introduction	XII-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	XII-3
C. NCCI Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) Edit Specific Issues	XII-5
D. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	XII-9
E. General Policy Statements	XII-12

Chapter XIII – Category III Codes
(CPT Codes 0001T – 0199T)

A. Introduction	XIII-3
B. Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services	XIII-3
C. NCCI Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) Edit Specific Issues	XIII-5
D. Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	XIII-5
E. General Policy Statements	XIII-5