

One Call Medical, Inc.
Clinical Services
Title: Nerve Conduction Study Reimbursement Guidelines

PURPOSE: To identify the accurate CPT codes based on documentation of nerve conduction studies (NCS); to provide clear directions to reviewers, payers and providers concerning reimbursement for nerve conduction studies.

POLICY: Clinical Services' staff shall follow the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) Guidelines as published by the AANEM, and the American Medical Association CPT™ 2004 and the American Medical Association CPT™ Assistant documents, under the guidance of the Medical Director, Neurophysiology.

PROCEDURE:

1. AANEM Guidelines for Electrodiagnostic testing shall be followed for reimbursement decisions of NCS tests. (see 3.02.01.01)
2. The American Medical Association CPT™ Assistant, Volume 12, Issue 4, April 2002 shall be followed for reimbursement decisions of NCS tests. (see 3.01.11)
3. Reimbursement for a nerve conduction study requires numerical data of BOTH amplitude, AND latency/velocity for each nerve.
4. Reimburse only once when multiple sites on the same nerve are stimulated or recorded unless both the recording and stimulating electrodes are repositioned. If either the recording or stimulating electrode remains stationary during a NCS, only 1 unit of CPT™ codes 95900-95904 can be reimbursed.
5. Reimbursement for both CPT™ codes 95900 and 95903 when they are both billed for the same nerve in the same visit is not allowed because the CPT™ code 95900 is a component of the CPT™ code 95903 if the same nerve is tested. If different nerves are tested, then both the CPT™ codes 95900 and 95903 would be allowed for the same test.

Reimbursement for CPT™ code 95903 includes BOTH a NCS and an F-wave study. Only one unit of CPT code 95903 should be reimbursed for each single nerve tested. Exception includes certain states where the CPT™ code 95903 has not been adopted by state rules and regulations.

Original: 4/20/04 Joanne M. Pearson

Reviewed: 8/11/04; 12/20/05

Revised: 12/9/04; 8/3/06

Approved by: NMAB 4/29/04; John E. Robinton, M.D. 12/9/04; Joanne Pearson 8/3/06

File Name: 3.14.01 NCS Reimbursement

Reimbursement for only the F-wave is not allowed.

If the “F-wave” tested has “No Response”, reimbursement will be for CPT™ code 95900.

6. NCS CPT codes 95900-95904 may not be reimbursed for surface EMG studies, Current Perception Threshold (CPT), Quantitative Sensory Testing (QRT), surface NCS or any other testing modality that does not provide numerical data for BOTH amplitude AND latency/velocity for each nerve.
7. Reimbursement of inching is for one unit as the process of “inching” is described as: one electrode remains stationary during testing while the other electrode is moved or “inched” down the nerve away from the first electrode in an expanding process. This method is used to determine where the problem with the nerve lies. This being the case, this process may only be billed as one unit; inching can not be reimbursed if the nerve has already been reimbursed.
8. The medical report must identify the nerves tested including listing by right side or left side.
9. When NCS of a limb unauthorized, please refer to the policy - 3.10 Unauthorized Asymptomatic Contralateral Limb Testing.
10. Examples of reimbursement include:
 - a. One unit 95904 = branch studies are bundled (stimulate wrist, record median sensory in digits 1,2,3,4)
 - b. Two units 95904 = ulnar digital sensory nerve + ulnar dorsal cutaneous sensory branch
 - c. Two units 95904 = median, stimulate wrist, record median sensory in digit 1 + median palmar, stimulate median nerve in the palm and record at wrist
 - d. One unit 95900 = ulnar motor NCS, recording from the abductor digiti minimi muscle, stimulating at the wrist, below the elbow, above the elbow and the axilla. The recording electrode is not moved.
 - e. Two units 95900 = study of Peroneal motor nerve, stimulating at the ankle, recording at the extensor digitorum brevis muscle AND stimulating the Peroneal motor nerve below fibular head, recording at the tibialis anterior muscle.
 - f. Two units 95904 = study of the ulnar sensory nerve, stimulating at the wrist, recording at digit 5 AND stimulating the ulnar sensory nerve above the wrist, recording at dorsum of the hand.

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