



Non-CME Webinar Series
designed with the trainee in mind

first Tuesday of the month



Pain Medicine Coding

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I have no financial disclosures to report



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OBJECTIVE: Discuss CPT coding and payment changes and common coding errors

- 2023 Coding Changes
- 2022 Coding Changes
- 2021/2020 Coding Changes*
- Common Coding Errors

2023 CPT Coding Changes

- **Somatic Nerve Injections (64400, 64405, 64408, 64415, 64416, 64417, 64418, 64420, 64421, 64425, 64430, 64435, 64445, 64446, 64447, 64448, 64449, 64450, 64451, 64454, 64455, 76942, 77002, 77003)***
- **Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches (64490-64495)**

2022 CPT Coding Changes

Extracranial Nerves, Peripheral Nerves, and Autonomic Nervous System			
Introduction/Injection of Anesthetic Agent (Nerve Block), Diagnostic or Therapeutic			
Code(s)	Unit	► Imaging Guidance Included ◀	► Imaging Guidance Separately Reported, With Imaging Performed ◀
Autonomic Nerve			
64400-64408	1 unit per plexus, nerve, or branch injected regardless of the number of injections		×
64415 - 64417	1 unit per plexus, nerve, or branch injected regardless of the number of injections	×	
64418 - 64435	1 unit per plexus, nerve, or branch injected regardless of the number of injections		×
64445 - 64448	1 unit per plexus, nerve, or branch injected regardless of the number of injections	×	
64449	1 unit per plexus, nerve, or branch injected regardless of the number of injections		×
64450	1 unit per plexus, nerve, or branch injected regardless of the number of injections ◀		×
64451	1 unit for any number of nerves innervating the sacroiliac joint injected regardless of the number of injections	×	
64454	1 unit for any number of genicular nerve branches, with a required minimum of three nerve branches	×	
64455	1 or more injections per level		×
64479	1 or more injections per level	×	
64480	1 or more additional injections per level (add-on)	×	
64483	1 or more injections per level	×	
64484	1 or more additional injections per level (add-on)	×	
64461	1 injection site	×	
64462	1 or more additional injections per code (add-on)	×	
64463	1 or more injections per code	×	
64486-64489	By injection site	×	
Destruction by Neurolytic Agent (Eg, Chemical, Thermal, Electrical, or Radiofrequency), Chemodenervation			
Code(s)	Unit	► Imaging Guidance Included ◀	► Imaging Guidance Separately Reported, With Imaging Performed ◀
Autonomic Nerves			
64624	1 unit for any number of genicular nerve branches, with a required minimum of three nerve branches	×	

- Imaging guidance is NOW included with brachial plexus (64415/6), axillary n (64417)., sciatic (64445/6), femoral n.(64447/8
- Previously imaging included with TAP/rectus sheath (64486-9), paravertebral (64461-3)

RUC Recommendations 2023: Somatic Nerve Injections

CPT Code	2019 wRVU	Current Work RVU	RUC Recommended Work RVU	Final (Proposed) 2023 CMS Work RVU
64400-Trigem	1.11	0.75	1.00	0.75
64405-Gr Occ	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94
64408-Vagus	1.41	0.75	0.90	0.75
*64415-Brach P SS	1.48 (+0.67)	1.35	1.50	1.50 (1.35)
*64416-Brach P Cont	1.81 (+0.67)	1.48	1.80	1.80 (1.65)
*64417-Axillary N	1.44	1.27	1.31	1.31

* Includes imaging guidance

RUC Recommendations 2023: Somatic Nerve Injections

CPT Code	2019 wRVU	Current wRVU	RUC Recommended wRVU	Final 2023 CMS wRVU
64418-Suprascap	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
64420-ICNB 1st	1.18	1.08	1.18	1.08
64421-ICNB each add'l	1.68	0.50	0.60	0.50
64425-II/IH	1.75	1.00	1.19	1.00
64430-Pudendal	1.46	1.00	1.15	1.00
64435-Paracervical	1.45	0.75	0.75	0.75

*** Includes imaging guidance**

RUC Recommendations 2023: Somatic Nerve Injections

CPT Code	2019 wRVU	Current wRVU	RUC Recom'd wRVU	Final (Proposed) 2023 CMS wRVU
*64445-Sciatic SS	1.48 (+0.67)	1.00	1.39	1.39 (1.28)
*64446-Sciatic Cont	1.81 (+0.67)	1.36	1.75	1.75 (1.64)
*64447-Femoral SS	1.50 (+0.67)	1.10	1.34	1.34
*64448-Femoral Cont	1.63 (+0.67)	1.41	1.68	1.68
64449-lumbar Plexus	1.81	1.27	1.55	1.27
64450-Other periph nb	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75

* Includes imaging guidance

RUC Recommendations 2023: Somatic Nerve Injections

CPT Code	2019 wRVU	Current Work RVU	RUC Recommended Work RVU	Final 2023 CMS Work RVU
64451-SI LBBB	n/a	1.52	1.52	1.52
64454-Genic NB (3+)	n/a	1.52	1.52	1.52
64455-plantar digital	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
76942-US	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
77002-Fluo ns	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54
77003-Fluo sp	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60

*** Includes imaging guidance**

Unchanged-Paravertebral/TAP

*** Includes imaging guidance**

Code	wRVU
64461: Paravertebral SS (1st)	1.75
64462: Paravertebral 2 nd AND add'l	1.10
64463: Paravertebral Cont.	1.90
64486: TAP, SS, Unilateral	1.27
64487: TAP, SS, Bilateral	1.48
64488: TAP, Cont, Unilateral	1.60
64489: TAP, Cont, Bilateral	1.80



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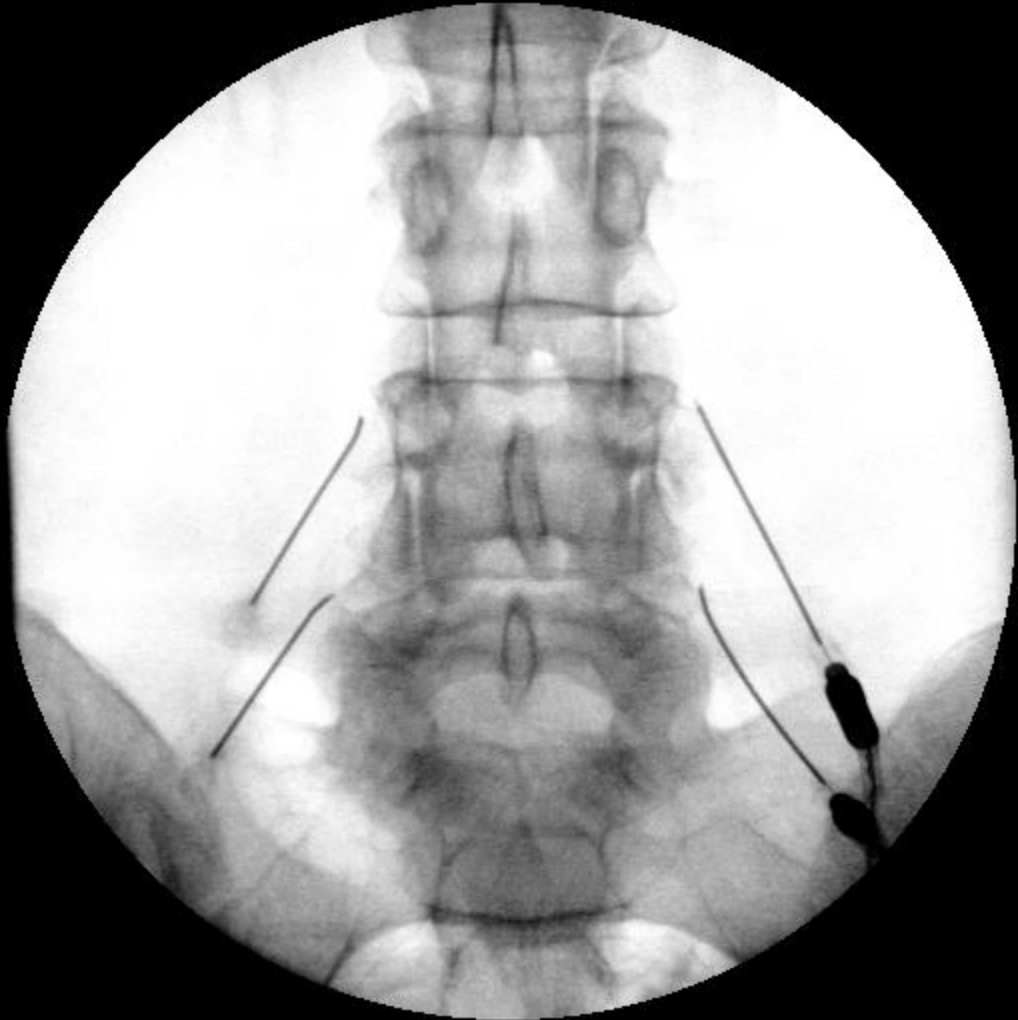
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- NOTE: There are currently no CPT codes to describe the following blocks (USE 64999, other unlisted code)
 - Erector Spinae Block (ESB)
 - Quadratus Lumborum (QL)
 - PECS
 - Fascia Iliaca

Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches



Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches (64490-64495)

Paravertebral Spinal Nerves and Branches

▶ Codes 64490, 64491, 64492, 64493, 64494, 64495 describe the introduction/injection of a diagnostic or therapeutic agent into the paravertebral facet joint or into the nerves that innervate that joint by level. Facet joints are paired joints with one pair at each vertebral level. **Imaging guidance and localization are required for the performance of paravertebral facet joint injections described by 64490, 64491, 64492, 64493, 64494, 64495. If imaging is not used, report 20552, 20553. If ultrasound guidance is used, report 0213T, 0214T, 0215T, 0216T, 0217T, 0218T. ◀**

▶ When determining a level, count the number of facet joints injected, not the number of nerves injected. Therefore, if multiple nerves of the same facet joint are injected, it would be considered as a single level. The add-on codes are reported when second, third, or additional levels are injected during the same session. ◀

Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches (64490-64495)

- ▶ When the procedure is performed bilaterally at the same level, report one unit of the primary code with modifier 50. ◀
- ▶ When the procedure is performed on the left side at one level and the right side at a different level in the same region, report one unit of the primary procedure and one unit of the add-on code. ◀

Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches (64490-64495)

► When the procedure is performed bilaterally at one level and unilaterally at a different level(s), report one unit of the primary procedure for each level and append modifier 50 for the bilateral procedure. If the procedure is performed unilaterally at different levels, report one unit of the primary procedure and the appropriate add-on code(s). ◀

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Cervical/Thoracic</u>	<u>Lumbar/Sacral</u>
Multiple nerves injected at the same level	64490 X 1	64493 X 1
1 level injected unilaterally	64490 X 1	64493 X 1
1 level injected bilaterally	64490 50 X 1	64493 50 X 1
1 level injected bilaterally and 1 level injected unilaterally	64490 50 X 1 64491 X 1	64493 50 X 1 64494 X 1
2 levels injected unilaterally	64490 X 1 64491 X 1	64493 X 1 64494 X 1
2 levels injected bilaterally	64490 50 X 1 64491 X 2	64493 50 X 1 64494 X 2
3 or more levels injected unilaterally	64490 X 1 64491 X 1 64492 X 1	64493 X 1 64494 X 1 64495 X 1
3 or more levels injected bilaterally	64490 50 X 1 64491 X 2 64492 X 2	64493 50 X 1 64494 X 2 64495 X 2

Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches (64490-64495)

~~(Image guidance [fluoroscopy or CT] and any injection of contrast are inclusive components of 64490-64495. Imaging guidance and localization are required for the performance of paravertebral facet joint injections described by codes 64490-64495. If imaging is not used, report 20552-20553. If ultrasound guidance is used, report 0213T-0218T)~~

(For bilateral paravertebral facet injection procedures, report 64490, 64493 with modifier 50. Report add-on codes 64491, 64492, 64494, 64495 twice, when performed bilaterally. Do not report modifier 50 in conjunction with 64491, 64492, 64494, 64495)

(For paravertebral facet injection of the T12-L1 joint, or nerves innervating that joint, use 64490)

Guideline Revisions - Paravertebral, Spinal Nerves and Branches (64490-64495)

- ▶ (For unilateral paravertebral facet injection of the T12-L1 and L1-L2 levels or nerves innervating that joint, use 64490 and 64494 once) ◀
- ▶ (For bilateral paravertebral facet injection of the T12-L1 and L1-L2 levels or nerves innervating that joint, use 64490 with modifier 50 once and 64494 twice) ◀

RUC Recommendations 2022: Destruction by Neurolytic Agent

- Identified by Work Neutrality Review

CPT Code	Current wRVU	RUC Rec'd wRVU	Final 2022 CMS wRVU
64633-Dest C-T facet jt, 1 st level	3.84	3.42	3.32
64634-Dest C-T facet jt, each add'l level	1.32	1.32	1.32
64635-Destruction L-S facet jt, 1 st level	3.78	3.42	3.32
64636-Dest L-S facet jt, each add'l level	1.16	1.16	1.16

Reporting Bilateral Procedures (2020)

- 64493 Injection(s), diagnostic or therapeutic agent, paravertebral facet (zygapophyseal) joint (or nerves innervating that joint) with image guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), lumbar or sacral; single level
- 64494 second level (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

► (For bilateral paravertebral facet injection procedures, report 64490, 64493 with modifier 50. Report add-on codes 64491, 64492, 64494, 64495 twice when performed bilaterally. Do not report modifier 50 in conjunction with 64491, 64492, 64494, 64495) ◀

Common Coding Errors

Reminder that for paravertebral facet joint procedures, both block and RFA, codes should be reported once per facet joint (2 nerves/levels) and NOT for each nerve treated

For bilateral paravertebral facet injection procedures, report 64490, 64493 with modifier 50. Report add-on codes 64491, 64492, 64494, 64495 twice when performed bilaterally. Do not report modifier 50 in conjunction with 64491, 64492, 64494, 64495

RFA OF BILATERAL L3, L4 MEDIAL BRANCH NERVES (L4-5 FACET JOINTS)

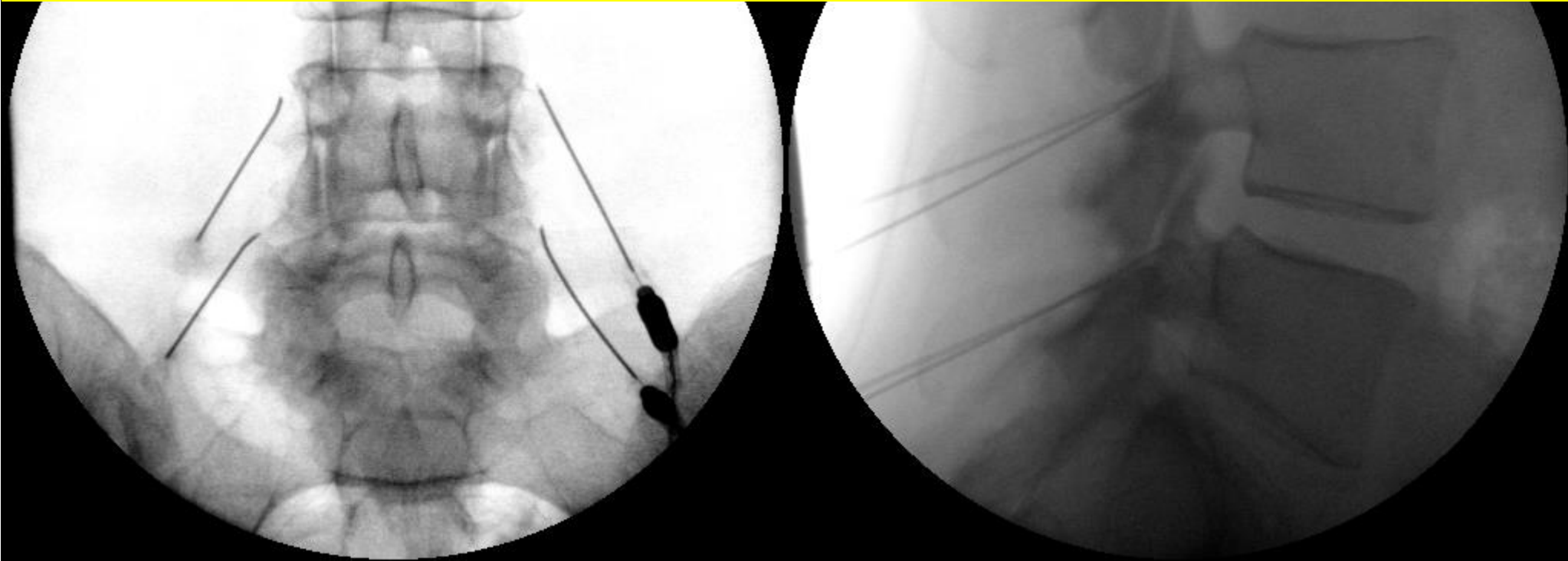


Images courtesy of Kevin Vorenkamp, MD

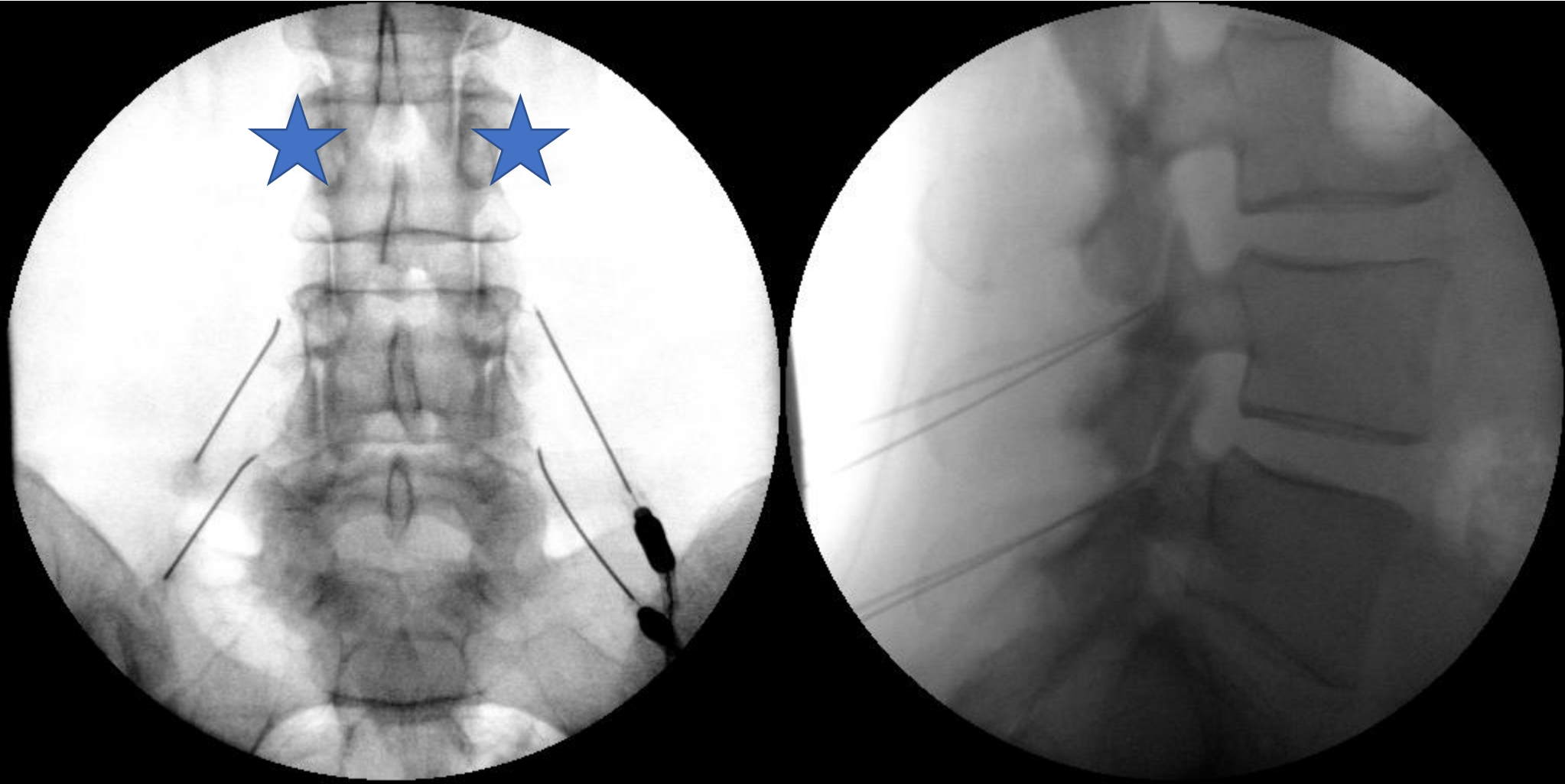
RFA OF BILATERAL L3, L4 MEDIAL BRANCH NERVES (L4-5 FACET JOINTS)

64635-50

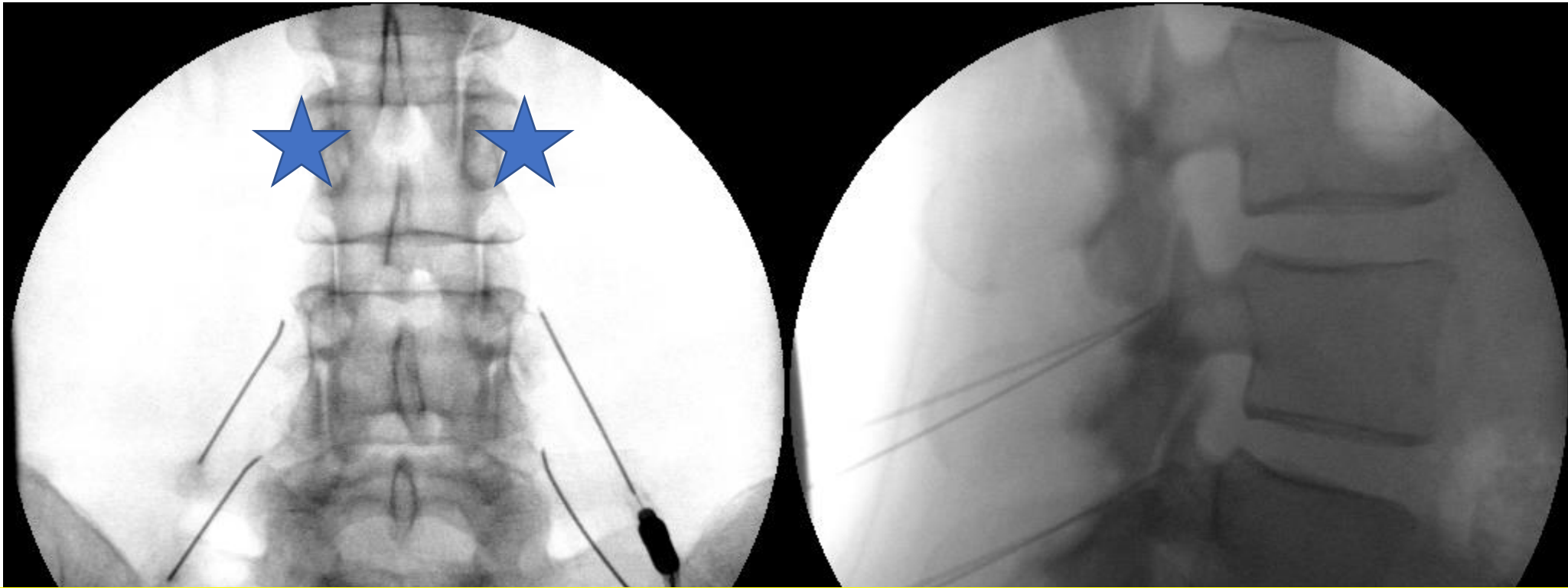
Destruction by neurolytic agent, paravertebral facet joint nerve(s), lumbar or sacral, single facet joint; bilateral
-use of modifier -50 for the primary level



RFA OF BILATERAL L2,L3, L4 MEDIAL BRANCH NERVES (L3-4 AND L4-5 FACET JOINTS)



RFA OF BILATERAL L2,L3, L4 MEDIAL BRANCH NERVES (L3-4 AND L4-5 FACET JOINTS)



64635-50

Destruction by neurolytic agent, paravertebral facet joint nerve(s), lumbar or sacral, single facet joint; bilateral –AND–

64636 x 2 (NOT -50) Each additional facet joint

2022 CPT Coding Changes

- Anesthesia Services for Image-Guided Spinal Procedures (01935--01942)
- Destruction of Intraosseous Basivertebral Nerve Procedures (64628, 64629)
- Epidurography (deletion 72275)

Somatic Nerve Injection Changes

64400 Injection(s), anesthetic agent(s) and/or steroid; trigeminal nerve, each ~~any division or~~ branch (ie, ophthalmic, maxillary, mandibular)

~~64402 — facial nerve~~

▶ (64402 has been deleted. To report injection of anesthetic agent and/or steroid to the facial nerve, use 64999) ◀

64405 greater occipital nerve

64408 vagus nerve

~~64410 — phrenic nerve~~

~~64413 — cervical plexus~~

▶ (64410, 64413 have been deleted. To report injection of anesthetic agent and/or steroid to the phrenic nerve, cervical plexus, use 64999) ◀

Somatic Nerve Injection Changes (*continued*)

64420 intercostal nerve, single level

64421 intercostal nerve, ~~multiple, regional block~~ each
additional level (List separately in addition to
code for primary procedure)

▶ (Use 64421 in conjunction with 64420) ◀

CPT[®] Changes 2020: Overview

- **Trigger Point Dry Needling**

- 2 new codes (20560, 20561)

- **Somatic Nerve Injection**

- 2 new codes (64451, 64454)

- Nerves innervating the sacroiliac joint

- Genicular nerves (knee)

- Revisions to 18 Codes (64400, 64405, 64408, 64415, 64416, 64417, 64418, 64420, 64421, 64425, 64430, 64435, 64445, 64446, 64447, 64448, 64449, 64450)

- Change to use of modifier 50 for additional level codes

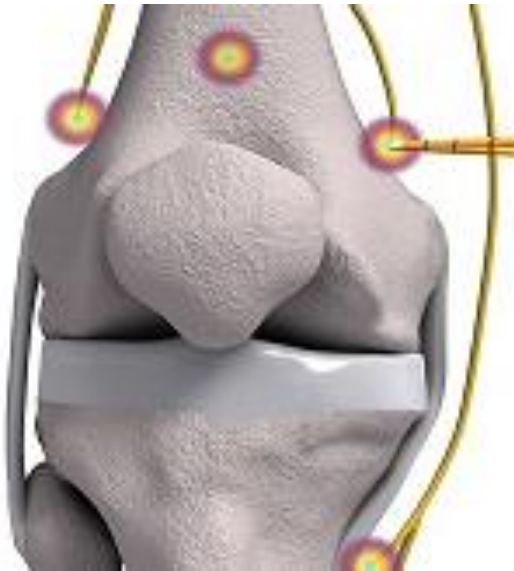
- Deletion of 3 Codes (64402, 64410, 64413)

- **Destruction by Neurolytic Agent, Genicular Nerves; Radiofrequency Neurotomy Sacroiliac Joint (64624, 64625)**

Genicular Nerve Block/RFA

- **64454-Injection genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance when performed**
- **64624-Destruction by neurolytic agent, genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance**
- Report only once per treatment (not per individual nerve)
- Both codes require treatment of all 3 nerves: superolateral, superomedial, inferomedial. If not all 3 branches are treated, then report code with modifier -52
- DO NOT:
 - REPORT 64454 in combination with 64624
 - Separately report imaging guidance

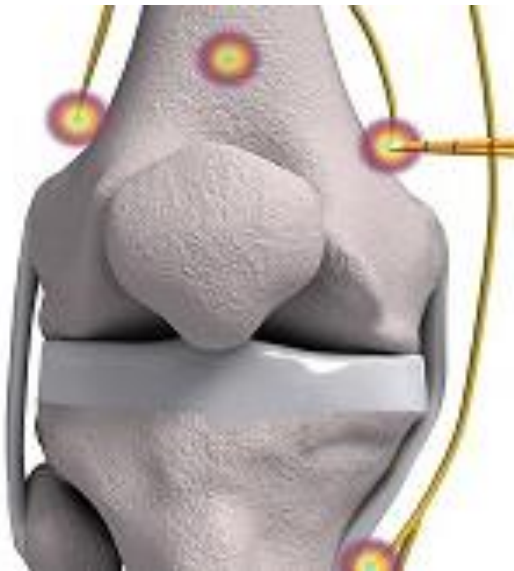
- 64454-Injection genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance when performed
- 64624-Destruction by neurolytic agent, genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance



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Images courtesy of Kevin Vorenkamp, MD

- **64454-Injection genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance when performed**
- **64624-Destruction by neurolytic agent, genicular nerve branches, including imaging guidance**



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The picture on the right shows only 2 of the 3 nerves being blocked; in this instance, the provider would report 64454 (block) or 64624 (destruction) with modifier-52

Sacroiliac Joint Nerve Blocks/RFA

64451 Injection, nerves supplying the sacroiliac joint with image guidance (ie, fluoroscopy or computed tomography)

64625 Radiofrequency ablation, nerves innervating the sacroiliac joint, with image guidance (ie, fluoroscopy or computed tomography)

▶ Do not report 64625 in conjunction with 64635

▶ For injection or destruction, nerves innervating the sacroiliac joint, with ultrasound, use 76999 (and NOT 64451 or 64625)



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SUMMARY

Somatic Nerve Injection Codes

- Imaging guidance inclusive to TAP/rectus, PVB, Axillary, Brachial Plexus, Femoral, Sciatic
- Bilateral Modifier (-50) only for primary level
- Correct Coding for Paravertebral Facet Joint Blocks/RFA