



CLINICAL GUIDELINES

CMM-315: Shoulder Surgery-Arthroscopic and Open Procedures Guidelines

Effective August 1, 2024

VERSION 1.0.2024

EviCore
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EviCore healthcare Clinical Decision Support Tool Diagnostic Strategies: This tool addresses common symptoms and symptom complexes. Requests for individuals with atypical symptoms or clinical presentations that are not specifically addressed will require physician review. Consultation with the referring physician, specialist and/or individual's Primary Care Physician (PCP) may provide additional insight.

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CMM-315: Shoulder Surgery-Arthroscopic and Open Procedures

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Definitions

- **Acromioplasty:** the removal of bone from the acromion and partial resection of the coracoacromial ligament.
- **Adhesive Capsulitis/Arthrofibrosis:** a condition of the shoulder characterized by stiffness, loss of motion (contracture), and pain due to scarring in and/or around the shoulder joint. Conditions that have been suggested to predispose an individual to adhesive capsulitis are trauma, surgery to the shoulder, inflammatory diseases, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, dyslipidemia. Often called frozen shoulder, adhesive capsulitis is clinically divided into classes:
 - ◆ Primary adhesive capsulitis is characterized by a significant limitation of both active and passive motions on the shoulder; individuals are typically unable to recall a possible cause of the condition (idiopathic adhesive capsulitis)
 - ◆ Secondary adhesive capsulitis is characterized by a trauma or a possible cause prior to the onset of the symptoms, such as fracture of the humerus, rotator cuff repair, shoulder girdle injury/surgery, or prolonged immobilization
- **Distal Clavicle Excision:** the removal of the end of the clavicle at the acromioclavicular (AC) joint. The superior AC ligament remains intact so that the joint remains stable.
- **Impingement Syndrome:** a condition that commonly results from friction, abrasion, and inflammation of the rotator cuff and the long head of the biceps tendon with the subacromial arch (anterior lip of the acromion, coracoacromial ligament, and acromioclavicular joint) from acute trauma, repetitive use or degenerative changes.
- **Labral Tears** result when the glenoid labrum becomes injured or torn. Tears are typically classified by the position of the tear in relation to the glenoid.
 - ◆ **Bankart Tear:** a tear in the labrum located in the front, lower (anterior, inferior) part of the glenoid. This type of tear occurs most commonly during a shoulder dislocation and makes the shoulder more prone to recurrent dislocations.
 - ◆ **SLAP Tear (Superior Labral, Anterior and Posterior Tear):** a tear in the labrum that covers the top part of the glenoid from the front to back. A SLAP tear occurs at the point where the long head of biceps tendon attaches. This type of tear occurs most commonly during falls on an outstretched arm.
- **Non-surgical Management**, (with regard to the treatment of shoulder pain): any provider-directed non-surgical treatment that has been demonstrated in the scientific literature to be efficacious and/or is considered reasonable care in the treatment of shoulder pain. The types of treatment involved can include, but are not limited to, the following: relative rest/activity modification, supervised physiotherapy modalities and therapeutic exercises, prescription and non-prescription medications, assistive devices, and/or injections.

- **Rotator Cuff Arthropathy:** a condition that results from **ALL** of the following:
 - ◆ Rotator cuff dysfunction (e.g., secondart to unrepairable massive rotator cuff tear)
 - ◆ Advanced glenohumeral arthritis
 - ◆ Radiographically diminished acromio-humeral distance
- **Rotator Cuff Tears:** the result when there is a disruption of the tendon(s) of the rotator cuff muscles which attach the humerus to the scapula and are important in shoulder movements and maintaining glenohumeral joint stability. The supraspinatus tendon is most commonly involved, but the infraspinatus, teres minor, and subscapularis tendons can also be torn.
 - ◆ Defining whether a rotator cuff tear is acute has relevance to treatment. In evaluating individuals, the surgeon should attempt to properly identify individuals with acute tears as opposed to individuals with pre-existing chronic tears that become symptomatic after an injury event. A discrete traumatic event is more suggestive of acute tear. Physical exam findings including supraspinatus and infraspinatus muscle atrophy, as well as internal and external rotation lag signs, may be indicative of larger and more chronic rotator cuff tears.
 - ◆ Evaluation of rotator cuff muscle quality with CT or MRI is an important consideration. Chronic and larger tears are associated with muscle atrophy and fatty replacement, both of which correlate with inferior functional outcome after rotator cuff repair. It is thought that early repair of acute rotator cuff tears might mitigate the development of chronic tendon and muscle pathology and improve functional outcomes.
 - ◆ Classification of rotator cuff tears (based upon surgical findings):
 - Partial-thickness tears, also called incomplete tears (Ellman):
 - Grade 1: < 3 mm deep (< 25% thickness)
 - Grade 2: 3–6 mm in depth but not exceeding 50% of the tendon thickness
 - Grade 3: > 6 mm deep (> 50% thickness)
 - Full-thickness tears, also called complete tears (Cofield):
 - Small: < 1 cm
 - Medium: 1-3 cm
 - Large: 3-5 cm
 - Massive: > 5 cm
- **Shoulder Dislocation:** the complete loss of the humeral articulation with the glenoid fossa, usually as a result of acute trauma.
- **Shoulder Instability and/or Laxity:** a partial loss of the glenohumeral articulation of which there are two categories:
 - ◆ Post-traumatic shoulder instability includes an individual with a previous injury that has stretched or torn the ligaments of the shoulder
 - ◆ Atraumatic instability and/or laxity includes an individual with generalized looseness of the joints “double-jointed” or “multi-directional instability” usually representing a type of congenital ligamentous laxity

- **Shoulder Subluxation:** a partial loss of humeral articulation with the glenoid fossa (incomplete or partial dislocation) usually as a result of repetitive trauma to the degree that symptoms are produced.
- **Subacromial Decompression:** the removal of bone or other abnormality to enlarge the space between the rotator cuff musculature and the acromion.

General Guidelines

Application of Guideline

- The determination of medical necessity for the performance of shoulder surgery is always made on a case-by-case basis.
- For advanced imaging indications for conditions of the shoulder refer to **MS-19: Shoulder**.

Arthroscopic or Open Procedure for Fracture, Tumor, Infection, or Foreign Body

- Shoulder arthroscopic or open surgical procedures may be considered **medically necessary** for individuals when surgery is being performed for fracture, tumor, infection, or foreign body that has led to or will likely lead to progressive destruction.

Diagnostic Arthroscopy

Diagnostic Arthroscopy Indications

Diagnostic arthroscopy is considered **medically necessary** as a stand-alone procedure when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT is inconclusive for internal derangement/pathology
- Physical exam demonstrates **ANY** of the following findings (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ Functionally-limited range of motion (active or passive)
 - ◆ Measurable loss in strength
 - ◆ Positive Neer Impingement Test or Hawkins-Kennedy Impingement Test
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment) for at least six (6) months in duration.
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Diagnostic Arthroscopy Non-Indications

Not Medically Necessary

- Diagnostic arthroscopy is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven

- Based on the lack of scientific evidence of efficacy and safety, the following is considered **experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU)**:
 - ◆ In-office diagnostic arthroscopy (e.g., Mi-Eye™, VisionScope®)

Loose Body/Foreign Body Removal

Loose Body/Foreign Body Removal Indications

Loose body or foreign body removal is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT shows findings of a loose body or foreign body within the shoulder joint
- Symptoms include **BOTH** of the following:
 - ◆ Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
 - ◆ Mechanical symptoms including painful locking, clicking, catching, or popping
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
 - ◆ **Criteria exception:** Non-surgical management is not required when the loose body or foreign body has caused an acute restriction of shoulder joint range of motion (i.e., locking)
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Loose Body/Foreign Body Removal Non-Indications

- Loose body or foreign body removal is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Synovectomy

Synovectomy Indications

Synovectomy (partial or complete) is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT Arthrogram shows findings synovitis

- Presence of **ANY** of the following conditions associated with synovitis:
 - ◆ Inflammatory arthritis (i.e., rheumatoid arthritis, gout, pseudogout, psoriatic arthritis)
 - ◆ Pigmented villonodular synovitis (PVNS)
 - ◆ Synovial chondromatosis
 - ◆ Lyme synovitis
 - ◆ Hemophilia
 - ◆ Hemochromatosis
 - ◆ Non-specific synovitis (including proliferative synovitis, post-operative synovitis as a sequela from a shoulder replacement, etc.)
 - ◆ Recurrent hemarthrosis
- Physical exam demonstrates functionally-limited range of motion (active or passive) (as compared to the non-involved side)
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Synovectomy Non-Indications

- Synovectomy is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Debridement

Debridement Indications

Debridement (limited or extensive) is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT shows findings of underlying pathology which correlates with the individual's reported symptoms and physical exam findings
 - ◆ Physical exam demonstrates **BOTH** of the following findings (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ **EITHER** of the following:
 - Functionally-limited range of motion
 - Measurable loss of strength
 - ◆ **ANY** of the following positive orthopedic tests/signs:
 - Drop arm test
 - Painful arc test
 - Jobe or empty can test
 - External rotation lag sign
 - Lift-off test

- Belly-press test
 - Cross body adduction test
 - Resisted AC joint extension test
 - Neer impingement test
 - Hawkins-Kennedy impingement test
 - O'Brien's test
 - Biceps load test
 - Clunk test
 - Anterior slide test
 - Compression rotation test
 - Speed's test
 - Upper cut test
 - Yergason's test
 - Proximal biceps (groove) tenderness
 - Modified dynamic labral shear
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
 - Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
 - Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Debridement Non-Indications

- Debridement is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Rotator Cuff Repair

Rotator Cuff Repair Indications

Rotator cuff repair is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT shows **EITHER** of the following findings:
 - ◆ Grade 2 or 3 partial-thickness rotator cuff tear (Ellman classification)
 - ◆ Full-thickness rotator cuff tear (Cofield classification)
- Physical exam demonstrates **BOTH** the following findings (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ **EITHER** of the following:
 - Functionally-limited range of motion
 - Measurable loss of strength of the rotator cuff musculature
 - ◆ **ANY** of the following positive orthopedic tests/signs:
 - Drop arm test
 - Painful arc test

- Jobe or empty can test
 - External rotation lag sign (dropping sign)
 - Internal rotation lag sign
 - Lift-off test
 - Bear hug test
 - Belly-press test (Napoleon)
 - Belly-off test
 - Neer impingement test
 - Hawkins-Kennedy impingement
 - Hornblower test (Patte)
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
 - Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
 - ◆ **Criteria exception:** Non-surgical management is not required for an individual who suffers a discrete traumatic event that results in an acute full-thickness rotator cuff tear unless there is evidence of pre-existing chronic rotator cuff tear as follows:
 - The presence of fatty infiltration and/or muscle atrophy on MRI or CT is considered **evidence of pre-existing chronic rotator cuff tear**.
 - Therefore, when fatty infiltration and/or muscle atrophy is also present on MRI or CT, three (3) months of provider-directed non-surgical management **is required**, regardless of whether a discrete traumatic event occurred.
 - Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Rotator Cuff Repair Non-Indications

Not Medically Necessary

- Rotator cuff repair is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven (EIU)

- Based on the lack of scientific evidence of efficacy and safety, the following is considered **experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU)**:
 - ◆ Superior capsular reconstruction using any type of graft (e.g., autograft, allograft, xenograft, or synthetic)

Distal Clavicle Excision/Subacromial Decompression/Acromioplasty

Distal Clavicle Excision Indications

Distal clavicle excision is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- Imaging shows **BOTH** of the following findings:
 - ◆ Plain radiographs demonstrate findings consistent with underlying pathology in the subacromial space and/or at the AC joint
 - ◆ MRI or CT shows findings of underlying pathology (e.g., AC joint arthritis, impingement, etc.) which correlates with the individual's reported symptoms and physical exam findings
 - **Criteria exception:** Advanced diagnostic imaging is not required for an isolated distal clavicle excision when the procedure is not associated with subacromial decompression/acromioplasty surgery.
- Physical exam demonstrates **BOTH** of the following findings (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ Localized tenderness to palpation of the acromioclavicular (AC) joint
 - ◆ **ANY** of the following positive orthopedic tests:
 - Cross body adduction test
 - Resisted AC joint extension test
 - Neer impingement test
 - Hawkins-Kennedy impingement test
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., documented loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
 - ◆ Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Subacromial Decompression/Acromioplasty Indications

Subacromial decompression/acromioplasty is considered **medically necessary** as when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- When requested as an arthroscopic procedure (add-on procedure), it is required to be performed with other medically necessary primary arthroscopic shoulder surgical procedures
- Imaging shows **BOTH** of the following findings:
 - ◆ Plain radiographs show findings of underlying pathology in the subacromial space and/or at the AC joint
 - ◆ MRI or CT shows underlying pathology (e.g., AC joint arthritis, impingement, etc.) which correlates with the individual's reported symptoms and physical exam findings
- Physical exam demonstrates **ANY** of the following positive orthopedic tests (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ Cross body adduction test
 - ◆ Resisted AC joint extension test
 - ◆ Neer impingement test
 - ◆ Hawkins-Kennedy impingement test

- Function-limiting pain (e.g., documented loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Distal Clavicle Excision/Subacromial Decompression/Acromioplasty Non-Indications

- Distal clavicle excision/subacromial decompression/acromioplasty is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.
- Arthroscopic subacromial decompression/acromioplasty is **not considered medically necessary** as a stand-alone procedure.

Labral Repair

Labral Repair Indications

Labral repair is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT shows labral tear (e.g., SLAP) and correlates with the individual's reported symptoms and physical exam findings
- Physical exam demonstrates **BOTH** of the following findings (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ Minimally limited or full shoulder range of motion
 - ◆ **ANY** of the following positive orthopedic tests/signs:
 - O'Brien's test
 - Biceps load test
 - Clunk test
 - Anterior slide test
 - Compression rotation test
 - Speed's test
 - Modified dynamic labral shear
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, cervical radiculopathy, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Labral Repair Non-Indications

- Labral repair is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Biceps Tenodesis

Biceps Tenodesis Indications

Biceps tenodesis is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT shows labral tear/biceps tendon pathology (e.g., SLAP, full-thickness subscapularis tear) and correlates with the individual's reported symptoms and physical exam findings
- Physical exam demonstrates **BOTH** of the following findings (as compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ Minimally limited or full shoulder range of motion
 - ◆ **ANY** of the following positive physical exam findings:
 - O'Brien's test
 - Biceps load test
 - Clunk test
 - Anterior slide test
 - Compression rotation test
 - Speed's test
 - Upper cut test
 - Yergason's test
 - Proximal biceps (groove) tenderness
 - Modified dynamic labral shear
 - Popeye sign
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration
 - ◆ **Criteria exception:** Non-surgical management is not required for an individual who suffers a discrete traumatic event that results in an acute proximal biceps tendon rupture.
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, cervical radiculopathy, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Biceps Tenodesis Non-Indications

- Biceps tenodesis is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Arthroscopic or Open Surgical Procedures for Shoulder Instability and/or Laxity

Arthroscopic or Open Surgical Procedures for Shoulder Instability and/or Laxity Indications

Arthroscopic or open surgical procedures for shoulder instability and/or laxity are considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- MRI or CT shows labral/capsular pathology (e.g., Bankart, capsular tear) and correlates with the individual's reported symptoms and physical exam findings
- Physical exam demonstrates **ANY** of the following positive orthopedic tests (when compared to the non-involved side):
 - ◆ Anterior or posterior apprehension test
 - ◆ Sulcus sign
 - ◆ Load and shift test
- Documented history of “post-traumatic” or “atraumatic” instability and/or laxity that has resulted in function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment)
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration that includes shoulder stabilization/strengthening exercises
 - ◆ **Criteria exception:** Non-surgical management is not required in an acute traumatic injury setting when **EITHER** of the following conditions are present:
 - Irreducible shoulder dislocation
 - Anterior shoulder instability in competitive contact or collision athletes
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, cervical radiculopathy, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Arthroscopic or Open Surgical Procedures for Shoulder Instability and/or Laxity Non-Indications

Not Medically Necessary

- Arthroscopic or open surgical procedures for shoulder instability and/or laxity are considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Experimental, Investigational, or Unproven (EIU)

- Based on the lack of scientific evidence of efficacy and safety, the following is considered **experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU)**:
 - ◆ Superior capsular reconstruction using any type of graft (e.g., autograft, allograft, xenograft, or synthetic)

Arthroscopic Capsular Release/Lysis of Adhesions/Manipulation under Anesthesia (MUA)

Arthroscopic Capsular Release/Lysis of Adhesions/Manipulation under Anesthesia (MUA) Indications

Arthroscopic Capsular Release/Lysis of Adhesions

Arthroscopic capsular release/lysis of adhesions is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- Individual has documented chronic refractory adhesive capsulitis/arthrofibrosis which has resulted from disease, injury, or surgery
- Physical exam demonstrates functionally-limited and painful global loss of active and passive range of motion of at least 50% (when compared to the non-involved side)
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment) for at least six (6) months in duration
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration, including a combination of anti-inflammatory medication, cortisone injection, and a trial of physical therapy (i.e., active exercise and manual therapy designed to increase joint mobility and range of motion)
- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, cervical radiculopathy, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis

Manipulation Under Anesthesia (MUA)

Manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) is considered **medically necessary** when **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:

- Individual has documented chronic refractory adhesive capsulitis/arthrofibrosis which has resulted from disease, injury, or surgery
- Physical exam demonstrates functionally-limited and painful global loss of active and passive range of motion of at least 50% (when compared to the non-involved side)
- Function-limiting pain (e.g., loss of shoulder function which interferes with the ability to carry out age appropriate activities of daily living and/or demands of employment) for at least six (6) months in duration
- Failure of provider-directed non-surgical management for at least three (3) months in duration, including a combination of anti-inflammatory medication, cortisone injection, and a trial of physical therapy (i.e., active exercise and manual therapy designed to increase joint mobility and range of motion)

- Other potential pathological conditions have been excluded including, but not limited to, the following: fracture, thoracic outlet syndrome, brachial plexus disorders, referred neck pain, cervical radiculopathy, and advanced glenohumeral osteoarthritis
- Manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) should be performed in conjunction with an active rehabilitation/therapeutic exercise program.

Arthroscopic Capsular Release/Lysis of Adhesions/Manipulation under Anesthesia (MUA) Non-Indications

- Manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) performed in isolation (i.e., without the individual participating in an active rehabilitation/therapeutic exercise program) is considered **not medically necessary**.
- Arthroscopic capsular release/lysis of adhesions/manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) is considered **not medically necessary** for **ANY** other indication or condition.

Arthroscopic or Open Coracoplasty/Subcoracoid Decompression

- Based on the lack of scientific evidence of efficacy and safety, arthroscopic or open coracoplasty/subcoracoid decompression for the treatment of subcoracoid impingement is considered **experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU)**.

Procedure (CPT®) Codes (CMM-315)

This guideline relates to the CPT® code set below. Codes are displayed for informational purposes only. Any given code's inclusion on this list does not necessarily indicate prior authorization is required.

CPT®	Code Description/Definition
23000	Removal of subdeltoid calcareous deposits, open
23020	Capsular contracture release (e.g. Sever type procedure)
23030	Incision and drainage, shoulder area; deep abscess or hematoma
23031	Incision and drainage, shoulder area; infected bursa
23035	Incision, bone cortex (e.g., osteomyelitis or bone abscess), shoulder area
23040	Arthrotomy, glenohumeral joint, including exploration, drainage, or removal of foreign body
23044	Arthrotomy, acromioclavicular, sternoclavicular joint, including exploration, drainage, or removal of foreign body
23065	Biopsy, soft tissue of shoulder area; superficial
23066	Biopsy, soft tissue of shoulder area; deep
23071	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of shoulder area, subcutaneous; 3 cm or greater
23073	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of shoulder area, subfascial (e.g. intramuscular); 5 cm or greater
23075	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of shoulder area, subcutaneous; less than 3 cm
23076	Excision, tumor, soft tissue of shoulder area, subfascial (e.g. intramuscular); less than 5 cm
23077	Radical resection of tumor (e.g. sarcoma), soft tissue of shoulder area; less than 5 cm
23078	Radical resection of tumor (e.g. sarcoma), soft tissue of shoulder area; 5 cm or greater
23100	Arthrotomy, glenohumeral joint, including biopsy
23101	Arthrotomy, acromioclavicular joint or sternoclavicular joint, including biopsy and/or excision of torn cartilage
23105	Arthrotomy; glenohumeral joint, with synovectomy, with or without biopsy
23106	Arthrotomy; sternoclavicular joint, with synovectomy, with or without biopsy
23107	Arthrotomy, glenohumeral joint, with joint exploration, with or without removal of loose or foreign body
23120	Claviculectomy; partial
23125	Claviculectomy; total
23130	Acromioplasty or acromionectomy, partial, with or without coracoacromial ligament release
23140	Excision or curettage of bone cyst or benign tumor of clavicle or scapula
23145	Excision or curettage of bone cyst or benign tumor of clavicle or scapula; with autograft (includes obtaining graft)
23146	Excision or curettage of bone cyst or benign tumor of clavicle or scapula; with allograft
23150	Excision or curettage of bone cyst or benign tumor of proximal humerus
23155	Excision or curettage of bone cyst or benign tumor of proximal humerus; with autograft (includes obtaining graft)

This guideline relates to the CPT® code set below. Codes are displayed for informational purposes only. Any given code's inclusion on this list does not necessarily indicate prior authorization is required.

CPT®	Code Description/Definition
23156	Excision or curettage of bone cyst or benign tumor of proximal humerus; with allograft
23170	Sequestrectomy (e.g. for osteomyelitis or bone abscess), clavicle
23172	Sequestrectomy (e.g. for osteomyelitis or bone abscess), scapula
23174	Sequestrectomy (e.g., for osteomyelitis or bone abscess), humeral head to surgical neck
23180	Partial excision (craterization, saucerization, or diaphysectomy) bone (e.g., osteomyelitis), clavicle
23182	Partial excision (craterization, saucerization, or diaphysectomy) bone (e.g., osteomyelitis), scapula
23184	Partial excision (craterization, saucerization, or diaphysectomy) bone (e.g., osteomyelitis), proximal humerus
23190	Ostectomy of scapula, partial (e.g., superior medial angle)
23195	Resection, humeral head
23200	Radical resection of tumor; clavicle
23210	Radical resection of tumor; scapula
23220	Radical resection of tumor, proximal humerus
23395	Muscle transfer, any type, shoulder or upper arm; single
23397	Muscle transfer, any type, shoulder or upper arm; multiple
23405	Tenotomy, shoulder area; single tendon
23406	Tenotomy, shoulder area; multiple tendons through same incision
23410	Repair of ruptured musculotendinous cuff (e.g., rotator cuff) open; acute
23412	Repair of ruptured musculotendinous cuff (e.g., rotator cuff) open; chronic
23415	Coracoacromial ligament release, with or without acromioplasty
23420	Reconstruction of complete shoulder (rotator) cuff avulsion, chronic (includes acromioplasty)
23430	Tenodesis of long tendon of biceps
23440	Resection or transplantation of long tendon of biceps
23450	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior; Putti-Platt procedure or Magnuson type operation
23455	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior; with labral repair (e.g., Bankart procedure)
23460	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior, any type; with bone block
23462	Capsulorrhaphy, anterior, any type; with coracoid process transfer
23465	Capsulorrhaphy, glenohumeral joint, posterior, with or without bone block
23466	Capsulorrhaphy, glenohumeral joint, any type multi-directional instability
23480	Osteotomy, clavicle, with or without internal fixation
23485	Osteotomy, clavicle, with or without internal fixation; with bone graft for nonunion or malunion (includes obtaining graft and/or necessary fixation)
23490	Prophylactic treatment (nailing, pinning, plating or wiring) with or without methylmethacrylate; clavicle

This guideline relates to the CPT® code set below. Codes are displayed for informational purposes only. Any given code's inclusion on this list does not necessarily indicate prior authorization is required.

CPT®	Code Description/Definition
23491	Prophylactic treatment (nailing, pinning, plating or wiring) with or without methylmethacrylate; proximal humerus
23700	Manipulation under anesthesia, shoulder joint, including application of fixation apparatus (dislocation excluded)
29805	Arthroscopy, shoulder, diagnostic, with or without synovial biopsy (separate procedure)
29806	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; capsulorrhaphy
29807	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; repair of SLAP lesion
29819	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; with removal of loose body or foreign body
29820	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; synovectomy, partial
29821	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; synovectomy, complete
29822	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; debridement, limited, 1 or 2 discrete structures (e.g., humeral bone, humeral articular cartilage, glenoid bone, glenoid articular cartilage, biceps tendon, biceps anchor complex, labrum, articular capsule, articular side of the rotator cuff, bursal side of the rotator cuff, subacromial bursa, foreign body[ies])
29823	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; debridement, extensive, 3 or more discrete structures (e.g., humeral bone, humeral articular cartilage, glenoid bone, glenoid articular cartilage, biceps tendon, biceps anchor complex, labrum, articular capsule, articular side of the rotator cuff, bursal side of the rotator cuff, subacromial bursa, foreign body[ies])
29824	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; distal claviclectomy including distal articular surface (Mumford procedure)
29825	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; with lysis and resection of adhesions, with or without manipulation
29826	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; decompression of subacromial space with partial acromioplasty, with coracoacromial ligament (i.e. arch) release when performed (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
29827	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; with rotator cuff repair
29828	Arthroscopy, shoulder, surgical; biceps tenodesis

This list may not be all-inclusive and is not intended to be used for coding/billing purposes. The final determination of reimbursement for services is the decision of the health plan and is based on the individual's policy or benefit entitlement structure as well as claims processing rules.

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