

# American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians

## **“The Voice of Interventional Pain Management”**

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February 20, 2008

Andy Slavitt  
CEO, Ingenix  
12125 Technology Drive  
Eden Prairie MN 55344  
[engage@ingenix.com](mailto:engage@ingenix.com)

RE: Appropriate use of CPT codes 77003 for 62310 through 62319, 62270 through 62282 and 62310 through 62319

Dear Mr. Slavitt:

Many members from the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) have brought to the attention of the Board of Directors the fact that the above fluoroscopy codes are being bundled by many insurers and at times, even Medicare, based on an unfortunate description in your publication and your interpretation of CPT codes.

Since the year 2000, the CPT text has clearly established that injection of contrast during fluoroscopy guidance is reported by codes 77003 and in the past, 76005; unless a formal contrast study, such as myelography or epidurography, or arthrography is performed; in which case, the use of fluoroscopy is included in the supervision and interpretation codes. Thus, we believe that CPT provides for separate and distinct reporting of these codes. It is misunderstood by many insurers.

Further, the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) does not bundle 77003 with the spinal injection codes.

Thus, fluoroscopy guidance is reported and valued separately from spinal injection procedures of 62270 through 62282 and 62310 through 62319. The relative values assigned to the spinal injection codes do not include the physician work involved in fluoroscopy guidance. Thus, we believe that it is incorrect to bundle 77003 with the spinal injection codes.

This issue is causing many problems. Thus, you should retract your mistake or publish a correction.

We would also appreciate a rapid response as the issue has already become a major problem with many insurers, creating more paperwork and affecting patient care.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Manchikanti', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD**

Chief Executive Officer, ASIPP and SIPMS  
Medical Director, Pain Management Center of Paducah  
Associate Clinical Professor  
Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
University of Louisville, Kentucky

cc: ASIPP Board