

mcp newsletter

August 8, 2024

24-09

TO: FEE-FOR-SERVICE ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

RE: INTRAVENOUS KETAMINE INFUSIONS FOR POST-OPERATIVE PAIN

In consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, the Department of Health and Community Services is introducing two new fee codes for the initiation and maintenance of intravenous injection and infusion with ketamine for the treatment of acute post-operative pain for hospitalized inpatients. These services require 24-hour coverage by anaesthesiologists. Patients remain under the Ketamine infusion protocol until 12 hours after the infusion has ended.

The following two new fee codes will be added to the Anaesthesiology/Therapeutic Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services section of the Medical Payment Schedule:

| | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| 54170 | Initiation of intravenous injection and infusion with ketamine for the treatment of acute post-operative pain..... | 55.10 |
| 54171 | Maintenance of intravenous injection and infusion with ketamine for the treatment of acute post-operative pain, per day..... | 31.45 |

Notes:

1. These fee codes are billable only for post-operative patients admitted to the hospital.
2. Fee codes 54170 and 54171 cannot be billed on the same calendar day.

For Fee code 54170:

3. Fee code 54170 is billable in addition to applicable anaesthesia surgical time units, visit fee codes, the ROSA stipend, premium fee codes, applicable "Nerve Blocks" fee codes in the Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services section of the Schedule (i.e. fee codes 54060-54067, 54072-54120, 54124-54150, 54154-54156, 54160), and Patient controlled analgesia fee code 54166. Please note that there are pre-existing rules in the Schedule that may prevent billing of multiple services above.

For Fee code 54171:

4. Fee code 54171 is billable in addition to fee codes 54134 (“Maintenance, epidural”), 54162 (“Maintenance, sustained regional nerve block”), Patient controlled analgesia fee code 54167 and the ROSA stipend. Please note that there are pre-existing rules in the Schedule that may prevent billing of multiple services above.
5. Fee code 54171 is not billable in addition to surgical time units by the same or different anaesthesiologist. Fee code 54171 is not billable in addition to premiums or other visits and consultations by the same anaesthesiologist.
6. Fee code 54171 is billable once per patient per day by the most responsible anaesthesiologist.

The Payment Schedule entry on fee code 58500 (“Remote Obstructive Sleep Apnea (ROSA) stipend per patient per day”) will be amended to read as follows:

Fee codes 54170, 54171, 54132, 54134, 54166, and 54167 are payable with the ROSA stipend.

These fee codes are available for services billed on or after March 7, 2024. MCP will accept payment for late claims up until December 6, 2024. Any claims for services submitted ninety days after the service date should be submitted by December 6, 2024 and should include the following comment to facilitate payment: “late claim approved as per MCP Newsletter 24-09”.

Questions relating to the content of this newsletter should be directed to AssistantMedicalDirector@gov.nl.ca or (709) 758-1557.