



ND

Medical Policies



Policy Number:

S-237

Policy Name:

Discography

Policy Type:

Medical

Effective Date:

09-15-2025

Policy Subtype:

Surgery

End Date:

11-02-2025

Description

Discography, also known as provocative discography, is an imaging-guided procedure in which a contrast agent is injected into the nucleus pulposus of the disc to evaluate intervertebral disc pathology.

Policy Application

All claims submitted under this policy's section will be processed according to the policy effective date and associated revision effective dates in effect on the date of processing, regardless of service date; **or**

All claims submitted under this policy's section will be processed according to the policy effective date and associated revision effective dates in effect on the date of service.

Diagnosis Codes

Covered Diagnosis Codes for Procedure codes 62290 and 72295

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| M43.06 | M43.07 | M43.16 | M43.17 | M45.A6 | M45.A7 | M46.46 |
| M46.47 | M47.16 | M47.26 | M47.27 | M47.816 | M47.817 | M47.896 |
| M47.897 | M48.061 | M48.062 | M48.07 | M51.06 | M51.16 | M51.17 |
| M51.26 | M51.27 | M51.360 | M51.361 | M51.362 | M51.369 | M51.370 |
| M51.371 | M51.372 | M51.379 | M51.46 | M51.47 | M51.86 | M51.87 |

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|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| M54.16 | M54.17 | M54.30 | M54.31 | M54.32 | M54.40 | M54.41 |
| M54.42 | M54.50 | M54.51 | M54.59 | M96.1 | M99.13 | S33.0XXA |
| S33.0XXD | S33.0XXS | S33.100A | S33.100D | S33.100S | S33.101A | S33.101D |
| S33.101S | S33.110A | S33.110D | S33.110S | S33.111A | S33.111D | S33.111S |
| S33.120A | S33.120D | S33.120S | S33.121A | S33.121D | S33.121S | S33.130A |
| S33.130D | S33.130S | S33.131A | S33.131D | S33.131S | S33.140A | S33.140D |
| S33.140S | S33.141A | S33.141D | S33.141S | | | |

CURRENT CODING

CPT:

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|-------|--|--------------------|
| 62290 | INJECTION PX DISCOGRAPHY EACH LEVEL LUMBAR | Commercial |
| 62291 | INJECTION PX DISCOGRPHY EA LVL CERVICAL/THORACIC | Commercial |
| 64999 | UNLISTED PROCEDURE NERVOUS SYSTEM | Commercial |
| 72285 | DISKOGRAPY CERVICAL/THORACIC RS&I | Commercial |
| 72295 | DISKOGRAPY LUMBAR RS&I | Commercial |
| 62290 | INJECTION PX DISCOGRAPHY EACH LEVEL LUMBAR | Medicaid Expansion |
| 62291 | INJECTION PX DISCOGRPHY EA LVL CERVICAL/THORACIC | Medicaid Expansion |
| 64999 | UNLISTED PROCEDURE NERVOUS SYSTEM | Medicaid Expansion |
| 72285 | DISKOGRAPY CERVICAL/THORACIC RS&I | Medicaid Expansion |
| 72295 | DISKOGRAPY LUMBAR RS&I | Medicaid Expansion |

Reference

1. Gruver C, Guthmiller KB. Provocative discography. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023.
2. Chen Y, Gao Z. Progress in discography. *Spine Surg Relat Res.* 2023;7(2):129- 135.
3. Pinto M, Mehbod AA, Swanberg BA, Dawson JM, Schellhas K. Provocative discography: Diagnostic efficacy and safety in symptomatic degenerative disk disease. *Clin Spine Surg.* 2022;35(7):E571-E575

4. McCormick ZL, Lehman VT, Plastaras CT, et al. Low-Pressure lumbar provocation discography according to spine intervention society/international association for the study of pain standards does not cause acceleration of disc degeneration in patients with symptomatic low back pain: A 7-year matched cohort study. *Spine*. 2019;44(19):E1161-E1168.
5. Gornet MG, Peacock J, Ryken T, Schranck FW, Eastlack RK, Lotz JC. Establishing a gold standard for noninvasive identification of painful lumbar discs: Prospective comparison of magnetic resonance spectroscopy vs low- pressure provocation discography. *Int J Spine Surg*. 2024;18(1):91-100.
6. Gardocki RJ, Park AL. Chapter 39: Degenerative disorders of the thoracic and lumbar spine. In: *Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics*. 14th Elsevier; 2021;1719-1801.

ND Committee Review

Internal Medical Policy Committee 11-19-2020 Revision:

- changed time from 3 to 6 months;
- **Removed** diagnosis codes: M43.00; M43.01; M43.02; M43.03; M43.04; M43.08; M43.09; M43.10; M43.11; M43.12; M43.13; M43.14; M43.18; M43.19; M47.28; M47.818; M47.898; M51.14; and M54.14
- **Added** diagnosis codes: S33.0XXD; S33.0XXS; S33.100D; S33.100S; S33.101D; S33.101S; S33.110D; S33.110S; S33.111D; S33.111S; S33.120D; S33.120S; S33.121D; S33.121S; S33.130D; S33.130S; S33.131D; S33.131S; S33.410D; S33.410S; S33.414D; S33.414S

Internal Medical Policy Committee 9-21-2021 Coding update **effective October 01, 2021**

- **Added** diagnosis codes: M45.A6; M45.A7; M54.50; M54.51 and M54.59

Internal Medical Policy Committee 11-23-2021 Coding update **effective January 01, 2022 ;**

- **Added** diagnosis code M51.16;*and*
- **Removed** diagnosis codes: M43.05; M43.15; M48.061; M48.062; M48.07; M51.15; M54.5; M54.15; M99.23; M99.33; M99.43; M99.53; M99.63; M99.73.

Internal Medical Policy Committee 5-24-2022 Revision with Coding update **effective July 04, 2022**

- **Added** diagnosis code M48.061; M48.062 and M48.07.

Internal Medical Policy Committee 5-23-2023 Annual Review - no changes in criteria

Internal Medical Policy Committee 5-14-2024 Annual Review - no changes in criteria

- **Added** Policy Application

Internal Medical Policy Committee 9-17-2024

- Coding update - **Effective October 01, 2024**
 - **Removed** diagnosis codes M51.36 and M51.37; *and*
 - **Added** diagnosis codes M51.360; M51.361; M51.362; M51.369; M51.370; M51.371; M51.372; and M51.379.
- Annual review-no changes in criteria - **Effective November 04, 2024**

Disclaimer

Current medical policy is to be used in determining a Member's contract benefits on the date that services are rendered. Contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, as well as state and federal law, must be considered in determining eligibility for coverage. Members must consult their applicable benefit plans or contact a Member Services representative for specific coverage information. Likewise, medical policy, which addresses the issue(s) in any specific case, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and the Company reserves the right to review and update medical policy periodically.