

Arthrocentesis

Adjudication Guideline

Rule Category:
Billing

Ref: No:
2020-BR-051

Version Control:
Version No. 2.0

Effective Date:
10/12/2024

Revision Date:
31/07/2025

Approved by:
Daman

Responsible:
Medical Standards
& Research

**Related Adjudication
Guidelines:**
N/A

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Abstract | 3 |
| 1.1 | For Members..... | 3 |
| 1.2 | For Medical Professionals..... | 3 |
| 2. | Scope | 4 |
| 3. | Adjudication Policy..... | 4 |
| 3.1 | Eligibility / Coverage Criteria..... | 4 |
| 3.2 | Requirements for Coverage | 5 |
| 3.3 | Non-Coverage..... | 5 |
| 3.4 | Payment and Coding Rules | 5 |
| 4. | Denial Codes..... | 5 |
| 5. | Appendices | 5 |
| 5.1 | References | 5 |
| 5.2 | Revision History | 6 |

1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Arthrocentesis is the clinical procedure of using a syringe to collect synovial fluid from a joint capsule. It is also known as joint aspiration.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

Arthrocentesis is the procedure of aspirating synovial fluid out of a joint. Arthrocentesis is similar in technique to joint injection – these two procedures can be performed during the same encounter in appropriate cases.

Indication for Procedure:

It is done as diagnostic and/or Therapeutic:

- Find out why a joint is painful, swollen, or is filled with fluid.
- Drain fluid to reduce pain and allow you to move the joint better.
- Diagnose the type of arthritis in a joint.
- Confirm a diagnosis of infection.
- Check for crystals in the joint fluid, which could be a sign of gout.
- In some cases, medicine may be injected in the joint space after the fluid has been taken out.

Daman covers Arthrocentesis procedure when requested by a physician of appropriate specialty, and as per policy terms and conditions for each health insurance plan administered by Daman.

2. Scope

This adjudication rule specifies the coverage details for medically necessary indications for procedure Arthrocentesis as per the policy terms and conditions of each health insurance plan administered by Daman.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Daman covers Arthrocentesis procedure when requested by a physician of appropriate specialty, and as per policy terms and conditions of each health insurance plan administered by Daman.

Clinician Eligibility Criteria

| Eligible Speciality |
|--------------------------------------|
| Orthopedic Surgery |
| Oral Maxillofacial Surgery |
| Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery |
| Orthopedic Surgery/ Traumatology |
| Oral Surgery |
| Rheumatology |
| Internal Medicine/ Rheumatology |
| Rheumatology/Immunology and Allergy |
| Pain Medicine |
| General Surgery/ Traumatology |
| Anesthesia / Pain Medicine |
| Family Medicine / Pain Medicine |
| Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation |
| Interventional Radiology |

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

3.3 Non-Coverage

Arthrocentesis will not be covered by Daman (for any plan) if it is not supported by a medically justified indication/diagnosis.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply regulator payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

4. Denial Codes

| Code | Code Description |
|----------|--|
| MNEC-003 | Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practise. |
| MNEC-004 | Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinician practise, without additional supporting diagnosis /activities. |
| MNEC-005 | Service / supply may be appropriate, but too frequent. |
| CODE-010 | Activity/diagnosis inconsistent with clinician speciality. |

5. Appendices

5.1 References

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557805/>
https://www.uptodate.com/contents/joint-aspiration-and-injection-in-adults-indications-and-technique?search=arthrocentesis&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1%7E118&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H2267181829
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329718070_Arthrocentesis_Shoulder
<https://www.healthgrades.com/right-care/joint-drainage/arthrocentesis>
<https://ard.bmj.com/content/annrheumdis/early/2019/06/05/annrheumdis-2019-215315.full.pdf>
<https://epmonthly.com/article/doc-are-you-sure-you-have-to-aspirate/>
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/medicine-and-dentistry/arthrocentesis>
<https://www.reliasmedia.com/articles/141511-joint-arthrocentesis-in-the-emergency-department>

<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2094114-overview>
<https://www.winchesterhospital.org/health-library/article?id=14768>
<https://www.arthritis.org/>
<https://www.niams.nih.gov/>
<https://iem-student.org/arthrocentesis/>
<https://arthritis.ca/>
<https://coa-aco.org/>
<https://www.cedars-sinai.edu/Patients/Programs-and-Services/Imaging-Center/For-Physicians/Musculoskeletal-Radiology/Exhibits-and-Presentations/Knee-Arthroplasty/Arthrocentesis-and-Arthrography.aspx>
<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02530229>
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221838513_Safety_of_Arthrocentesis_and_Joint_Injection_in_Patients_Receiving_Anticoagulation_at_Therapeutic_Levels
<https://academic.oup.com/rheumatology/article/51/1/184/1777012>
<https://www.outsourcestrategies.com/blog/arthrocentesis-key-coding-and-billing-points.html>

5.2 Revision History

| Date | Change(s) |
|------------|--|
| 13/05/2022 | Release of V1.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Adjudication Guideline-External Instruction Template. |
| 31/07/2025 | Release of V2.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template Updated References Updated Content Reviewed |

Disclaimer

By accessing these Daman Adjudication Guidelines, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the terms of use set out in the disclaimer below:

The information contained in this Adjudication Guideline is intended to outline the procedures of adjudication of medical claims as applied by the National Health Insurance Company – Daman PJSC (hereinafter "Daman"). The Adjudication Guideline is not intended to be comprehensive, should not be used as treatment guidelines and should only be used for the purpose of reference or guidance for adjudication procedures and shall not be construed as conclusive. Daman in no way interferes with the treatment of patient and will not bear any responsibility for treatment decisions interpreted through Daman Adjudication Guideline. Treatment of patient is and remains at all times the sole responsibility of the treating Healthcare Provider. This Adjudication Guideline does not grant any rights or impose obligations on Daman. The Adjudication Guideline and all of the information it contains are provided "as is" without warranties of any kind, whether express or implied which are hereby expressly disclaimed.

Under no circumstances will Daman be liable to any person or business entity for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, or other damages arising out of any use of, access to, or inability to use or access to, or reliance on this Adjudication Guideline including but without limitation to, any loss of profits, business interruption, or loss of programs or information, even if Daman has been specifically advised of the possibility of such damages. Daman also disclaims all liability for any material contained in other websites linked to Daman website.

This Adjudication Guideline is subject to the laws, decrees, circulars and regulations of Abu Dhabi and UAE. Any information provided herein is general and is not intended to replace or supersede any laws or regulations related to the Adjudication Guideline as enforced in the UAE issued by any governmental entity or regulatory authority, or any other written document governing the relationship between Daman and its contracting parties.

This Adjudication Guideline is developed by Daman and is the property of Daman and may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or displayed by any third party without Daman's express written consent. This Adjudication Guideline incorporates the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), which is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association ("AMA") and the CPT codes and descriptions belong to the AMA. Daman reserves the right to modify, alter, amend or obsolete the Adjudication Guideline at any time by providing one month prior notice.