

A Guide to Reimbursement

Methacholine Challenge Test



This resource was designed to ensure you are aware of the drug reimbursement code (J-code) and the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT codes) that you should be billing for with each methacholine challenge test.

CODE OVERVIEW

J-7674 – One unit for each milligram of Provocholine (methacholine chloride)

Each Provocholine vial contains 100mg of methacholine chloride

95070 – One unit for administering the methacholine

94070 – One unit which covers the multiple spirometric determinations included in the bronchospasm evaluation

See the next page for full descriptions and additional references.

Methacholine challenge tests are usually considered medically necessary when the following ICD-10 codes are used:

493.00	(Extrinsic asthma, unspecified)
493.10	(Intrinsic asthma, unspecified)
493.20	(Chronic obstructive asthma unspecified)
493.90	(Asthma, unspecified, unspecified status)
786.00	(Unspecified respiratory abnormality)
786.01	(Hyperventilation)
786.02	(Orthopnea)
786.03	(Apnea)
786.04	(Cheyne – strokes respiration)
786.05	(Shortness of breath)
786.06	(Tachypnea)
786.07	(Wheezing)
786.09	(Other dyspnea and respiratory abnormalities)
786.20	(Cough)

EXAMPLE

For example, if you used a 100 mg vial of Provocholine for one patient, you would bill for 100 units under the J-code and should receive \$52.80 (will be in effect January 1 through to March 31, 2018). Reimbursement for the CPT codes outlined above, vary based on region. To find out how much you should be reimbursed for each of the codes in your area visit [CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov) and use the Physician Fee Schedule Search.

Provocholine[®]
(methacholine chloride)

CODE DETAILS

CPT Code	CMS Description	Additional References
J-7674	Methacholine chloride administered as inhalation solution through a nebulizer (per mg)	Provocholine [®] (methacholine chloride) is supplied in 100 mg vials and, depending on your facility's protocol, a single 100 mg vial should be sufficient to prepare all of the challenge solutions for a single patient.
95070	Inhalation bronchial challenge testing (not including necessary pulmonary function tests); with histamine, methacholine, or similar compounds	A single encounter for this type of test is coded as 95070 when methacholine is the agent used for testing. Pulmonary function testing studies are not included in the bronchial challenge tests and are coded separately (see CPT code 94070 below).
94070	Bronchospasm provocation evaluation, multiple spirometric determinations as in 94010, with administered agents (eg: antigen(s), cold air, methacholine)	The multiple spirometric determinations performed during a methacholine challenge test are included in this code.

Additional Codes: There are additional CPT codes that potentially may be used based on the completed procedures in addition to the methacholine challenge test. These codes were not included on this resource as they may not be accepted by all local carriers and in some cases are considered mutually exclusive.

Place of Service: In a hospital setting the professional and technical codes can be billed separately. In a physician office setting the professional and technical codes are combined.

Additional Notes: It is very important to consult with your billing department or coders to improve understanding of the reimbursement rules in your local area.

For more information, please contact Methapharm at 519.751.3602 | 1.800.287.7686