

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

Product Reimbursement

Each vial of Provocholine contains 100 mg of methacholine chloride

J-7674 – One unit for each mg of methacholine chloride delivered to the patient

JW-7674 – One unit for each mg of methacholine chloride discarded

Procedure Code

95070 – One unit for administering the methacholine

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

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

J45.20	Mild intermittent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.30	Mild persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.40	Moderate persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.50	Severe persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.909	Unspecified asthma, uncomplicated
J45.998	Other asthma
R06.9	Unspecified abnormalities of breathing
R06.4	Hyperventilation
R06.01	Orthopnea
R06.81	Apnea, not elsewhere classified
R06.3	Periodic breathing
R06.02	Shortness of breath
R06.82	Tachypnea, not elsewhere classified
R06.2	Wheezing
R06.00	Dyspnea, unspecified
R05	Cough

PRODUCT EXAMPLE

If you used a 100 mg vial of Provocholine for one patient, you would bill for 100 units combined under the J-code and JW-code. If you place 43mg of methacholine in the nebulizer over the course of a test, you would bill for 43 units under the J-code and the remaining 57 units under the JW-code. The total reimbursement for the 100 units should be \$53.80 (will be in effect July 1 to Sept 30, 2018).

Provocholine®
(methacholine chloride)

CPT CODE DETAILS

CPT Code	CMS Description	Additional References
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.

Place of Service:

Testing is billed differently in the hospital outpatient department compared to the physician office setting.

- In the hospital setting the professional and technical codes are usually bundled as an APC code.
- In a physician office setting the professional and technical codes are billed separately. 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 and use the Physician Fee Schedule Search.

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.

Note:

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 1-833-887-7686