

NEW ADD-ON CPT CODE +93319 AND VALUE FOR 3D ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

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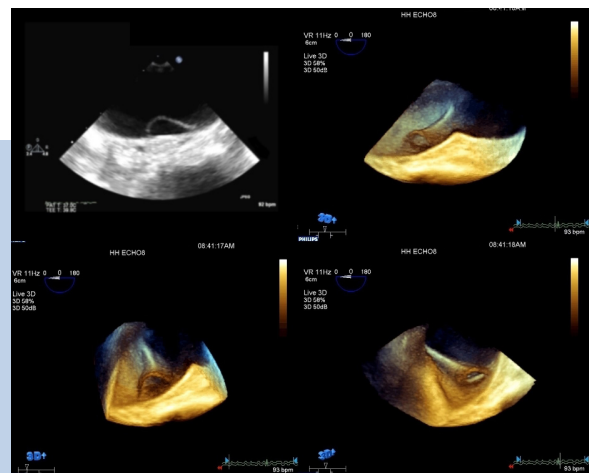
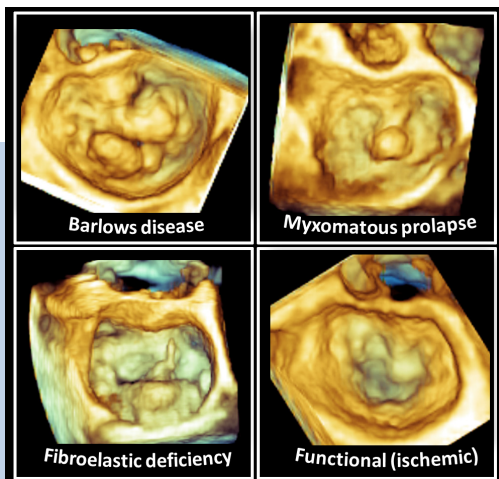


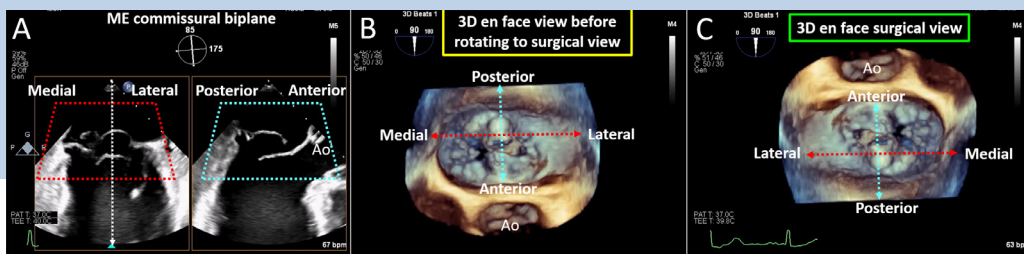
ASE is committed to ensuring that echocardiography services are appropriately identified and reimbursed. ASE worked to develop and value a new add-on CPT code for three-dimensional (3D) echocardiography. On November 2, 2021, when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule was published, it included a new add-on code for 3D echo +93319[®]. This code along with the RUC-recommended physician work RVU of 0.50 for this new code were effective on January 1, 2022.

Add-on CPT code +93319 describes the clinical work involved in 3D echocardiographic imaging and post-processing during transesophageal echocardiography, or during transthoracic echocardiography for congenital cardiac anomalies and includes the assessment of cardiac structures and function (cardiac chambers, valves, left atrial appendage, interatrial

septum, and function for example), when performed. To use this new add-on CPT code, you must list this code in addition to the appropriate base echocardiography code: congenital transthoracic (CPT codes 93303, 93304) or transesophageal echocardiography (CPT codes 93312, 93314, 93315, 93317). It is important to note that this is not an add-on code for CPT code 93355 since this code already includes 3D imaging for guidance of a structural intervention.

It is recommended that the ordering provider request 3D imaging while ordering the transesophageal echocardiogram or a congenital transthoracic echocardiogram. The add-on code can also be added by the echocardiographer when 3D imaging is deemed medically necessary. However, prior authorization may be required before the 3D procedure. In addition, all medically appropriate documentation about why





3D imaging is needed is recommended on the echo report.

Additionally, there are two existing CPT codes 3D imaging 76376 and 76377. These codes are for 3D rendering with image interpretation and image post-processing under concurrent physician supervision. The physician work RVUs for CY2022 is – 76376 – 0.20; 76377 – 0.79. CPT codes 76376 and 76377 are not add-on codes. ASE encourages providers to refer to the CPT® code descriptions to ensure that a billed code meets the specific requirements defined for each individual code. The local Medicare contractor/payer should be contacted for interpretation of applicable policies. Finally, the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits should be reviewed.

CPT code +93319 is a new code for CY2022, therefore coverage and reimbursement are being established. Often, it will take time for commercial payers to review and support new technology codes/policies and the associated literature. The COVID pandemic may delay the process even further. Criteria for coverage/indications for use is established by the individual payers is based on their individual policy and criteria. We have not yet seen updated coverage policies for CY2022. Reimbursement for new codes and technologies and clinical indications is a process. Now that there is a CPT code to accurately report the work of 3D imaging during the echocardiography service, filing claims with the payers will expedite the coverage process, build awareness of clinical utility, and lead to reimbursement.

ASE suggests that providers always verify with the payers if prior authorization must be approved in advance. Claims can be appealed based on the individual patient issue and how 3D supported the diagnosis or treatment for patients with non-coverage policies. There are multiple peer reviewed articles which highlight how 3D supports patient management, and it is recommended this be included in an appeal packet. In addition, when submitting an appeal, providers can also submit clinical literature

specifics or appropriate use criteria guidelines as support.

Finally, ASE retains an expert in coding to answer individual member coding questions. This service is available by logging in the ASE Member Portal and clicking “Ask a Coding Expert” to get an answer from an expert.

