



# Coding corner

## 2023 coding updates: cardiac catheter ablation

### 2023 update

There is only one minor coding change impacting cardiac catheter ablation procedures effective October 1, 2022.

- The ICD-10-CM diagnosis code for ventricular tachycardia (VT) I47.2 is no longer valid and has been replaced by new, more specific ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes<sup>1</sup>.

2022 ICD-10-CM code for VT	New ICD-10-CM codes for VT
I47.2	<b>I47.20</b> - ventricular tachycardia, unspecified
	<b>I47.21</b> - Torsades de pointes
	<b>I47.29</b> - Other ventricular tachycardia

### Background - key changes in 2022

- The descriptions of the primary procedure codes for SVT, VT, and PVI cardiac catheter ablations were significantly revised by the American Medical Association (AMA) to include, or bundle, 3D mapping, intracardiac echocardiogram (ICE), and left atrial (LA) pacing into the primary procedure codes.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) revised payment methodology to align with the procedure code description changes and changing clinical practice patterns, which resulted in significant RVU and payment reductions for physicians.

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## Background - key changes in 2022 (continued)

- The services (3D mapping, ICE, and LA pacing) that were separately reportable prior to 2022 are now combined into the primary procedure codes for cardiac catheter ablation procedures.
- These changes, in addition to updated code valuations resulted in updated physician work relative value units (RVU's); and impacts procedures in which physicians utilize the procedure relevant services that are no longer separately reportable (3D mapping, ICE, LA pacing)
- The codes in the table below represent the changes made to the primary procedure codes by the AMA. 2022 changes are in **bold**.

CPT® Code	Current description
93653	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation <b>with</b> insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording, <b>and catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping</b> , right ventricular pacing and recording, <b>left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium</b> , and His bundle recording, <b>when performed</b> ; with treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathway, accessory atrioventricular connection, cavo-tricuspid isthmus or other single atrial focus or source of atrial re-entry
93654	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation <b>with</b> insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording, <b>and catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping</b> , right ventricular pacing and recording, <b>left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium</b> , and His bundle recording, <b>when performed</b> ; with treatment of ventricular tachycardia or focus of ventricular ectopy including left ventricular pacing and recording, when performed
93656	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including transeptal catheterizations, insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with intracardiac catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation by pulmonary vein isolation, including <b>intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, intracardiac echocardiography including imaging supervision and interpretation</b> , induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing/recording, right ventricular pacing/recording, and His bundle recording, when performed

## Overview of additional services commonly performed with ablations

The table below provides an overview of commonly performed services that are done concurrently with SVT, VT, and PVI cardiac catheter ablations. It provides information on what is included as well as what may be separately reported.

Services commonly performed with Ablations	SVT Ablation (93653)			VT Ablation (93654)			AF Ablation by PVI (93656)		
	Included	Not separately reported	May be separately reported	Included	Bundled-Not separately reported	May be separately reported	Included	Bundled-Not separately reported	May be separately reported
Transseptal puncture (93462)			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
RA pacing and recording	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>	
RV pacing and recording		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	
LA pacing and recording		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	
LV pacing and recording					<b>X</b>				
HIS Bundle recording		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	
Intracardiac 3D mapping (93613)		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	
Intracardiac Echocardiography (ICE) (93662)			<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	

## Frequently asked questions

### Q1: Why were these changes made?

The revaluation of codes is common practice and tends to happen every (approximately) 5 years, on a rolling basis. Procedure coding for cardiac catheter ablation procedures had not been updated since 2013.

### Q2: What is the impact to physician work RVUs for cardiac catheter ablation procedures?

As of 2022 physicians no longer receive additional RVU credit for 3D mapping and ICE when performed during a PVI ablation procedure; the same goes for 3D mapping and LA pacing when performed during an SVT ablation procedure. Additionally, a revaluation of the primary procedure codes for VT and PVI ablations resulted in RVU reductions for 2023.

Ablation procedure	Current procedure coding	2022 Work RVU <sup>2</sup>	2023 Work RVU <sup>3</sup>
<b>SVT</b>	93653 includes 3D mapping, LA pacing	14.75	15.00
<b>VT</b>	93654 includes 3D mapping, LA pacing	19.75	18.10
<b>PVI</b>	93656 includes 3D mapping, ICE	19.77	17.00

### Q3: Do these changes impact hospital payment for cardiac catheter ablation procedures?

No. These changes do not impact facility payment for cardiac catheter procedures. In fact, inpatient payment for cardiac catheter ablation procedures (DRG 273, 274) increased 6.2%<sup>4</sup> nationally and outpatient payment (APC 5213) is increasing by 7.1%<sup>5</sup> nationally in 2023.

### Q4: Does this change impact CPT 93657?

No. There are no changes to the procedure codes for additional cardiac catheter ablation procedures (+93655 and +93657), these codes are still separately reportable when used in conjunction with the appropriate primary ablation procedure code.

### Q5: Do these changes impact payer coverage for cardiac catheter ablation procedures?

No. These changes do not impact coverage for cardiac catheter ablation procedures. Refer to payer policies for any coverage criteria requirements.

## Contact

For additional information, contact the Medtronic Reimbursement Customer Support team by phone at 866-877-4102 or by email at: [rs.healthcareeconomics@medtronic.com](mailto:rs.healthcareeconomics@medtronic.com)

## References

<sup>1</sup> ICD-10-CM The Complete Official Codebook. 2022 AAPC

<sup>2</sup> MPFS 2022 Final Rule CMS-1751-F released November 2, 2021 <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/physicianfeeschedpfs-federal-regulation-notices/cms-1751-f> Updates to conversion factor from legislation passed on December 10, 2021 <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/physicianfeeschedpfs-relative-value-files/rvu22a>

<sup>3</sup> The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) 2023 Relative Value Unit (RVU) amounts are based on information in Addendum B from the MPFS final rule CMS-1770-F which was released on November 11, 2022 and updates from the legislation signed on December 29, 2022. PFS Federal Regulation Notices. cms.gov <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/physicianfeeschedpfs-federal-regulation-notices/cms-1770-f>

<sup>4</sup> Rates represent the volume-weighted average rates across relevant MS-DRGs representing these procedures. Source: Acute Inpatient PPS, CMS <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-for-service-payment/acuteinpatientpps>

<sup>5</sup> OPSS/ASC 2023 final rule CMS-1772-FC released November 2, 2022 <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/hospitaloutpatientppshospital-outpatient-regulations-and-notices/cms-1772-fc>

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