

# CPT coding guide

This list represents coding examples for common spine procedures. The information can also be used in conjunction with the Medicare Fee Calculator on <http://www.cms.gov/apps/physician-fee-schedule/overview.aspx> to estimate the amount of physician reimbursement expected from the performance of one or more of these procedures.

## Fusion procedures

### Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (ALIF)

#### ALIF with Posterior Instrumentation

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Anterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22558	fusion of first interspace
	+22585	fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Posterior Instrumentation	+22840	non-segmental instrumentation
	+22842	segmental; spanning 3 - 6 vertebral segments
	+22843	segmental; spanning 7 - 12 vertebral segments
	+22844	segmental; spanning 13+ vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

#### ALIF with Anterior Instrumentation

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Anterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22558	fusion of first interspace
	+22585	fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Anterior Instrumentation	+22845	segmental; spanning 2 - 3 vertebral segments
	+22846	segmental; spanning 4 - 7 vertebral segments
	+22847	segmental; spanning 8+ vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

#### ALIF with rhBMP Bone Graft and LT-Cage™ Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device, Single Level

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Anterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22558	fusion of single level interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Placement of Osteopromotive Material	+20930	used for bone graft

## Posterior Lumbar Fusion Posterolateral

### Posterolateral Fusion with Posterior Instrumentation

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Posterolateral Fusion, Lumbar	22612	fusion of first interspace
	+22614	fusion of each additional interspace
Posterior Instrumentation	+22840	non-segmental instrumentation
	+22842	segmental; spanning 3- 6 vertebral segments
	+22843	segmental; spanning 7-12 vertebral segments
	+22844	segmental; spanning 13+ vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

## Posterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (PLIF) or Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion (TLIF)

### PLIF or TLIF with Posterior Instrumentation

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Posterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22630	fusion of first interspace
	+22632	fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Posterior Instrumentation	+22840	non-segmental instrumentation
	+22842	segmental; spanning 3- 6 vertebral segments
	+22843	segmental; spanning 7-12 vertebral segments
	+22844	segmental; spanning 13+ vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

Note: CPT® Assistant (January 2001) states that laminectomy specifically for the purpose of decompression, beyond the work of preparing the interspace for fusion.

### PLIF with Posterior Instrumentation Via METRx™ System / CD Horizon™ Sextant™ System

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Posterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22630	fusion of first interspace
	+22632	fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Posterior Instrumentation	+22840	non-segmental instrumentation
	+22842	segmental; spanning 3- 6 vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

Note: Refer to add-on codes +63052 & +63053 for decompressive laminectomy/facetectomy/foraminotomy at the same space as a posterior lumbar interbody fusion.

## 360° Fusion, Anterior and Posterior

### Classic 360° Procedure: ALIF and Posterolateral Fusion

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Posterolateral Fusion, Lumbar	22612	posterior fusion of first interspace
	+22614	posterior fusion of each additional interspace
Anterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22558	anterior fusion of first interspace
	+22585	anterior fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Posterior Instrumentation	+22840	non-segmental instrumentation
	+22842	segmental; spanning 3 – 6 vertebral segments
	+22843	segmental; spanning 7 – 12 vertebral segments
	+22844	segmental; spanning 13+ vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

### Single Incision 360 Fusion: PLIF/TLIF and Posterolateral Fusion

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Combined Fusion, Posterolateral fusion, with Posterior Interbody Fusion	22633	fusion of first interspace
	+22634	fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Posterior Instrumentation	+22840	non-segmental instrumentation
	+22842	segmental; spanning 3 – 6 vertebral segments
	+22843	segmental; spanning 7 – 12 vertebral segments
	+22844	segmental; spanning 13+ vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

Note: Refer to add-on codes +63052 & 63053 for decompressive laminectomy/facetectomy/foraminotomy at the same space as a posterior lumbar interbody fusion.

## Direct Lateral Interbody Fusion (DLIF)

### DLIF with Anterior Instrumentation

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Anterior Interbody Fusion, Lumbar	22558	fusion of first interspace
	+22585	fusion of each additional interspace
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22853	assigned once for each interspace (not per device)
Anterior Instrumentation	+22845	spanning 2 – 3 vertebral segments
	+22846	spanning 4 – 7 vertebral segments
	+22847	spanning 8 or more vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

Note: DLIF and OLIF are forms of anterior lumbar interbody fusion.

## Other Fusion and Instrumental Spinal Column Procedures

### Anterior Cervical Discectomy with Interbody Fusion (ACDF)

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Anterior Interbody Fusion, with Discectomy and Decompression; Cervical Below C2	22551 +22552	fusion of first interspace fusion of each additional interspace
Anterior Instrumentation	+22845 +22846 +22847	spanning 2 - 3 vertebral segments spanning 4 - 7 vertebral segments spanning 8 or more vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

Note: Per CPT manual instructions and NCCI edits, do not report anterior interbody cervical fusion codes 22554 or 22585 with anterior discectomy codes 63075 or 63076 even if performed by different physicians. To report anterior cervical discectomy and interbody fusion at the same level during the same session, use 22551.

### Anterior Cervical Fusion with Corpectomy (e.g., for burst fracture)

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Anterior Interbody Fusion, Cervical	22554 +22585	fusion of first interspace fusion of each additional interspace
Vertebral Corpectomy, Cervical (e.g., for burst fracture)	63081 +63082	corpectomy of single segment corpectomy of each additional segment
Application of Biomechanical Device (e.g., cages)	+22854	assigned once for each contiguous defect (e.g., C4-C6)
Anterior Instrumentation	+22845 +22846 +22847	spanning 2 - 3 vertebral segments spanning 4 - 7 vertebral segments spanning 8 or more vertebral segments
<b>Use of Bone Graft:</b>		
Allograft (morselized)	+20930	e.g., bone chips, bone graft
Allograft (structural)	+20931	e.g., bone dowel
Autograft (rib/lamina/spinous process, same incision)	+20936	e.g., bone from laminectomy via same incision as fusion
Autograft (morselized, separate incision)	+20937	e.g., crushed bone harvested from iliac crest
Autograft (structural, separate incision)	+20938	e.g., bone cortex graft from iliac crest

Note: Per CPT manual instructions and NCCI edits, do not report anterior interbody cervical fusion codes 22554 or 22585 with anterior discectomy.  
Note: Code +22854 for application of biomechanical device is used only when it is applied to a vertebral defect resulting from concurrent corpectomy (partial or complete vertebral body resection) accompanied by spinal fusion. To qualify as a cervical vertebral corpectomy for coding purposes, at least one-half of the vertebral body must be removed (CPT Assistant, April 2016).

### Laminectomy when performed during a posterior interbody fusion

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Laminectomy, facetectomy, or foraminotomy (unilateral or bilateral with decompression of spinal cord, cauda equina and/or nerve roots) during posterior interbody arthrodesis	+63052	lumbar; single vertebral segment
Additional vertebral segment	+63053	each additional segment

Note: These codes are appropriate in conjunction with posterior lumbar interbody fusion procedures (22630, +22632, 22633, +22634).

# Other spinal procedures

## Laminectomy, Lumbar

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Laminectomy without facetectomy, foraminotomy or discectomy, lumbar, except for spondylolisthesis	63005 63017	laminectomy of one or two vertebral segments laminectomy of more than 2 vertebral segments
Laminectomy with removal of abnormal facets and/or pars inter-articularis with decompression, for spondylolisthesis, lumbar	63012	Gill-type procedure
Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated disc, lumbar	63030 +63035	hemilaminectomy of one interspace hemilaminectomy of each additional interspace
Laminotomy (hemilaminectomy), including partial facetectomy, foraminotomy and/or excision of herniated disc, re-exploration, lumbar	63042 +63044	hemilaminectomy of one interspace hemilaminectomy of each additional interspace
Laminectomy, facetectomy and foraminotomy, lumbar, (e.g., for spinal or lateral recess stenosis)	63047 +63048	laminectomy of single vertebral segment laminectomy of each additional segment

Note: Codes 63030 and 63042 describe partial removal of the lamina (including partial removal of the facet and foramen) on one side, with removal of intervertebral disc if performed. Bilateral modifier 50 can be used with these codes. Code 63047 describes complete removal of the lamina (including complete removal of the facet and foramen) on both sides, with removal of intervertebral disc if performed (CPT® Assistant December 2012). Bilateral modifier 50 cannot be used with this code.

## Discectomy, Lumbar, Open or Via Tubular Retractor System (e.g., METRx™ System)

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Posterior discectomy, lumbar	63030 +63035	discectomy of first interspace discectomy of each additional interspace

Note: This procedure involves a laminectomy (hemilaminectomy) to access the disc. If performed bilaterally, report 63030 with modifier 50. Do not use modifier 50 with +63035; report twice, if performed bilaterally.

## Vertebroplasty

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Percutaneous vertebroplasty (bone biopsy included when performed), 1 vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral injection, inclusive of all imaging guidance	22510 22511 +22512	cervicothoracic lumbosacral each additional level

## Balloon Kyphoplasty

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Percutaneous vertebral augmentation, including cavity creation (fracture reduction and bone biopsy included when performed) using mechanical device, one vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral cannulation inclusive of all imaging guidance	22513 22514 +22515	thoracic lumbar each additional level

## Cervical Arthroplasty (Total Cervical Disc Replacement, Artificial Disc )

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Total disc arthroplasty, anterior approach, cervical	22856	single interspace
Second level, cervical	+22858	list separately in addition to code for primary procedure

## Laminoplasty, Cervical

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Laminoplasty, cervical with decompression	63050	two or more vertebral segments
Laminoplasty with decompression and reconstruction	63051	two or more vertebral segments

## Sacroiliac Joint Fusion (SIJF)

Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Arthrodesis, sacroiliac joint, percutaneous or minimally invasive (indirect visualization), with image guidance, includes obtaining bone graft when performed, and placement of transfixing device	27279	unilateral


Note: If the procedure is performed bilaterally, use modifier 50


# Miscellaneous

Computer-Assisted Surgery (Surgical Navigation)		
Procedure Description	CPT ®	Comments
Stereotactic computer-assisted (navigational) procedure; spinal (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	+61783	

Note: The definition of 61783 specifically includes spinal applications. Per NCCI policy, do not report 61783 with spinal decompression codes (63001-63051). Imaging can be coded separately when formal interpretation is performed and a formal imaging report is generated. Application of the stereotactic frame, 20660, is included with 61783 and is not coded separately. Medicare has assigned code 61783 as PC/TC status of 0. Therefore, it is not necessary for physicians to use modifier 26 with 61783 because this code is already understood to represent the physician service. 61783 is an add-on code and is assigned in addition to the CPT code for the primary procedure. Do not use modifier 51 with this code.

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