

2023 CPT Hernia Repair: Peeking Through Code Changes

A WEBINAR PRESENTED ON APRIL 27, 2023

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Presented By



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Dr. Shelley C. Safian has been teaching Health Care Administration, Health Information/ Informatics Management, and Medical Billing and Coding, both onsite and online, for more than 20 years. She has a PhD in Health Care Administration and Masters' degrees in Organizational Management, Health Care Administration, and Health Informatics.

In addition to teaching, she loves to share the knowledge about HIM and coding by writing articles and books. She's written eight books, with the fourth edition of "You Code It!" released in January 2023.

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Webinar Agenda

- Anatomy review
- Defining and diagnosing hernias
 - Symptoms/types
 - ICD-10-CM hernia codes
 - Relevant ICD-10-CM guidelines
- Treatment methods
 - Surgical (e.g., open, laparoscopic, robotic, Nissen fundoplication)
 - Nonsurgical (e.g., girdles, binders)
 - CPT hernia repair procedure codes
 - Relevant CPT guidelines
- Live Q&A

Learning Objectives

- Determine the specific type of hernia diagnosed
- Abstract procedure details from documentation to choose the correct CPT code(s)
- Describe types of surgical and nonsurgical hernia treatment methods
- Explain the most recent changes to hernia repair reporting guidance

Defining and Diagnosing Hernias

- Anatomy review
- Signs and symptoms
- ICD-10-CM codes and guidelines

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A Hernia Is...

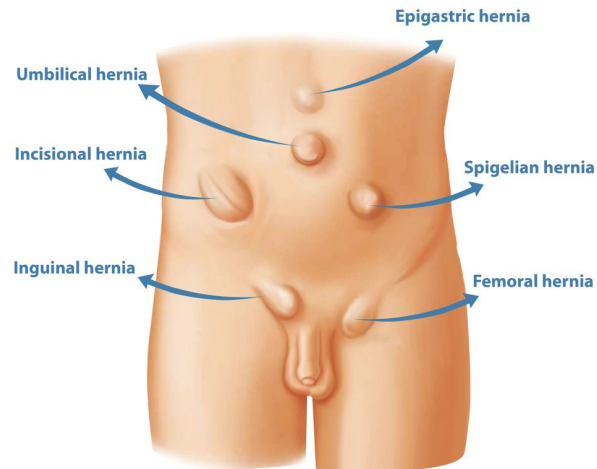
When an organ pushes through a tear in a muscle or tissue

- A **reducible** hernia = that the organ can manually be pushed back through
- An **incarcerated** hernia = section of organ is trapped
- A **strangulated** hernia = that blood-flow to the organ is cut-off

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Hernia Type by Anatomical Location



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Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of hernias include:

- A visible bump or bulge that comes and goes
- A dull ache that can worsen to pain
- Pinching in the area during certain activities

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Common Hernia Locations

- **Inguinal hernia**: About 75% of all hernias diagnosed are found in the lower abdomen, when a segment of the large intestine squeezes through into the inguinal canal.
 - **K40.* Inguinal Hernia**
- **Femoral hernia**: A hernia which opens in the femoral canal permitting fatty tissue to poke through.
 - **K41.0* Femoral Hernia**
 - *Unilateral or bilateral
 - *With or without gangrene
 - *With or without obstruction

Additional Common Locations

- **Hiatal hernia**: An opening in the diaphragm through which the esophagus pushes and widens, enabling the top of the stomach to push up
 - **K44.9 Diaphragmatic hernia without obstruction or gangrene**
 - **Congenital hiatal (diaphragmatic) hernia**: This is a birth defect in which the diaphragm doesn't close all the way during gestation. The opening can allow abdominal organs to slip up into the chest cavity while the organs are still growing, pushing against the lungs.
 - **Q40.1 Congenital hiatus hernia**
 - **Q79.0 Congenital diaphragmatic hernia**

More Types of Hernia

- **Umbilical hernia**: An opening in the abdominal wall, near the belly button, permits the small intestine to poke through. Most umbilical hernias are congenital.
 - **K42.9 Umbilical hernia without obstruction or gangrene**
- **Spigelian hernia**: An opening between the rectus muscles and the lateral muscles of the abdomen.
 - **K43.6 Other and unspecified ventral hernia**

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Diagnosing a Hernia

- Examination using palpation
- CT scan (soft tissue imaging)
 - **74150, computed tomography, abdomen; without contrast material**
 - **74160, computed tomography, abdomen; with contrast material**
 - **74170, computed tomography, abdomen; without contrast material, followed by contrast material and further sections**

 - **74176, computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; without contrast**
 - **74177, computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; with contrast material**
 - **74178, computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; without contrast material in one or both body regions, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections in one or both body regions**

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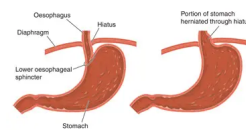
Treatment Methods

- Hernia repair
- Surgical
 - Nonsurgical

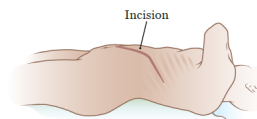
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Procedural Techniques

- **Laparotomy = incision into the abdomen**
- **Thoracotomy = incision into the chest**
- **Thoracoabdominal incision = incision that connects the pleural cavity and the peritoneal cavity**



<https://ocroboticsurgery.com/procedures/hiatal-hernia-repair/>



Thoracoabdominal incision

<https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/patient-education/about-your-thoracoabdominal-surgery-msk-kids>

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Diaphragmatic (Hiatal) Hernia Repair

- 43332 Para-esophageal hiatal hernia repair, including fundoplication, via **laparotomy**, except neonatal – without mesh implantation
- 43333 – with mesh implantation
- 43334 Para-esophageal hiatal hernia repair, including fundoplication, via **thoracotomy**, except neonatal – without mesh implantation
- 43335 – with mesh implantation
- 43336 Para-esophageal hiatal hernia repair, including fundoplication, via **thoracoabdominal incision**, except neonatal – without mesh implantation
- 43337 – with mesh implantation

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Diaphragmatic (Hiatal) Hernia Repair (cont.)

- 43336 Para-esophageal hiatal hernia repair, including fundoplication, via **thoracoabdominal incision**, except neonatal – without mesh implantation
- 43337 Para-esophageal hiatal hernia repair, including fundoplication, via **thoracoabdominal incision**, except neonatal – with mesh implantation
- 39503 **Neonatal** diaphragmatic hernia repair

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Inguinal Hernia Repair

- 49491, initial inguinal hernia – preterm infant (younger than 37 weeks at birth)
 - 49492 --- incarcerated or strangulated
- 49495, initial inguinal hernia – full term infant younger than 6 mos
 - 49496 --- incarcerated or strangulated
- 49500, initial inguinal hernia, age 6 months to younger than 5 years
 - 49501 --- incarcerated or strangulated
- 49505, initial inguinal hernia, age 5 years or older, reducible
 - 49507 --- incarcerated or strangulated

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2023 New Codes – Initial Anterior Abdominal Hernia Repair

- **Initial** anterior abdominal hernia (i.e., epigastric, incisional, ventral, umbilical, spigelian)
- Any approach (i.e., open, laparoscopic, or robotic)
- Includes implantation of mesh or other prosthesis
 - 49591 ... total length of defect = less than 3cm, reducible
 - 49592 ... less than 3 cm, incarcerated or strangulated
 - 49593 3cm to 10 cm, reducible
 - 49594 3cm to 10cm, incarcerated or strangulated
 - 49595 Greater than 10cm, reducible
 - 49596 Greater than 10cm, incarcerated or strangulated

Reported
only once...
Based on
Total Defect

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2023 New Codes – Recurrent Anterior Abdominal Hernia Repair

- **Recurrent** anterior abdominal hernia (i.e., epigastric, incisional, ventral, umbilical, spigelian)
- Any approach (i.e., open, laparoscopic, or robotic)
- Includes implantation of mesh or other prosthesis
 - 49613 ... total length of defect = less than 3cm, reducible
 - 49614 ... less than 3 cm, incarcerated or strangulated
 - 49615 3cm to 10 cm, reducible
 - 49616 3cm to 10cm, incarcerated or strangulated
 - 49617 Greater than 10cm, reducible
 - 49618 Greater than 10cm, incarcerated or strangulated



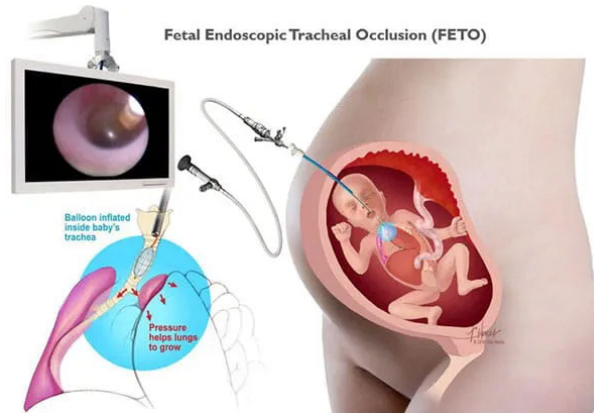
Reported only
once...
Based on Total
Defect

2023 New Codes – Parastomal Hernia Repair

- **Initial or Recurrent** parastomal hernia
- Any approach (i.e., open, laparoscopic, or robotic)
- Includes implantation of mesh or other prosthesis
 - 49621 ... reducible
 - 49622 ... incarcerated or strangulated

In Utero Surgery to Repair Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia

- S2400, repair, congenital diaphragmatic hernia in the fetus using temporary tracheal occlusion, procedure performed in utero



Non-Surgical Treatments: HCPCS Level II

- Hernia Truss
 - **L8300**, truss, single with standard pad
 - **L8310**, truss, double with standard pads
 - **L8320**, truss, addition to standard pad, water pad
 - **L8330**, truss, addition to standard pad, scrotal pad



Questions & Answers



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To Submit a Question: Go to the Q&A box located in the lower left area of your screen. Type your question in the lower text box, then press your “Enter” key.

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This concludes today's program.

Be sure to register for our upcoming program:

2023 ICD-10-CM and CPT Coding: The ABCDs of Chronic Wound Care

May 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. ET

<https://hcmarketplace.com/chronic-wound-care>

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