## Sacroiliac Joint Fusion – Understanding the 2024 CPT® Codes

CPT® Code <sup>1</sup>	CPT 27279	CPT 27278	CPT 27280
Descriptor	Arthrodesis, sacroiliac joint, percutaneous or minimally invasive (indirect visualization), with image guidance, includes obtaining bone graft when performed, and placement of transfixing device.	Arthrodesis, sacroiliac joint, percutaneous, with image guidance, includes placement of intra-articular implant(s) (e.g., bone allograft[s], synthetic device[s]) without placement of transfixation device.	Arthrodesis, open, sacroiliac joint, including obtaining bone graft, including instrumentation, when performed.
Techniques or Procedures Described by the Code	Percutaneous or minimally invasive arthrodesis of the sacroiliac joint. Procedure must include placement of an internal fixation device(s) that passes through the ilium, across the sacroiliac joint, and into the sacrum, thus transfixing the sacroiliac joint. <sup>2</sup>	Percutaneous or minimally invasive placement of an intra articular stabilization device into the sacroiliac joint that does not transfix the sacroiliac joint.  Many products marketed for this procedure are bone allograft products regulated as HCT/Ps (Human cell and tissue products). <sup>3</sup> As of October 2023, three 510(k) cleared medical devices fall into this category. <sup>4</sup>	May be performed from an anterior, posterior, lateral or combined approach. A surgical incision typically 8-10 cm or larger allows full access to the joint. Instrumentation (plates, screws, cages or other implants) is typically placed during this procedure. Inpatient-only procedure for Medicare patients. <sup>5</sup>
Minimally Invasive Surgery	✓	✓	*
Transfixing?	✓	×	Varies
Approach	Lateral, Posterolateral	Dorsal, Intra-Articular	Varies
Literature	120+ publications, including 2 RCTs <sup>6,7</sup> and 5-year prospective data <sup>8</sup> with the iFuse Implant System <sup>®</sup> . Visit SI-BONE's clinical results site for a list of iFuse Technology <sup>®</sup> publications. (www.si-bone.com/results)	As of October 2023, limited clinical evidence. No RCT data. Early results of a single arm prospective study have been published. <sup>9</sup> A few retrospective, case series publications.	Limited clinical evidence.
	POSTEROLATERAL "TRANSFIXING"  LATERAL "TRANSFIXING"	DORSAL INTRA-ARTICULAR  LICAMENTOUS PORTION OF JOINT  ARTICULAR PORTION OF JOINT	

## CPT® 27279 - Over 300 Million Covered Lives (October 2023)

National Payors	Health Technology Assessment Groups	
Anthem	AIM Specialty Health	
Humana	eviCore Healthcare	
Cigna	Blue Cross Blue Shield Association	
United Healthcare	Magellan	
Aetna	MCG	
	ODG by MCG	

Minimally invasive SI joint fusion (CPT 27279) medical necessity criteria available from the following professional societies: North American Spine Society,<sup>10</sup> International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery.<sup>11</sup>

- 1. CPT© 2023 Professional. American Medical Association (AMA). All rights reserved
- 2. May 2022 CPT Panel: Defining language between transfixing and non-transfixing techniques for MIS SIJF. Emphasis added.
- 3. Kranenburg A, Garcia-Diaz G, Cook JH, Thambuswamy M, James W, Stevens D, Bruggeman A, Chen Y, Capobianco R, Reckling WC, Siegal JD. Revision of Failed Sacroiliac Joint Posterior Interpositional Structural Allograft Stabilization with Lateral Porous Titanium Implants: A Multicenter Case Series. *Med Devices (Auckl)*. 2022 Jul 20;15:229-239. doi: 10.2147/MDER.S369808. PMID: 35899066; PMCID: PMC9309279.
- FDA website, 510(k) premarket notification search. K180818; K190580; K221047. Accessed October 14, 2022. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpmn/pmn.cfm
- 5. AAPC Codify, Cross-Referenced CPT 27280 to Lay Terms for procedure description. Accessed October 20, 2023.
- Polly DW, et al. Two-Year Outcomes from a Randomized Controlled Trial of Minimally Invasive Sacroiliac Joint Fusion vs. Non-Surgical Management for Sacroiliac Joint Dysfunction. Int J Spine Surg. 2016;10:Article 28. doi: 10.14444/3028.
- 7. Dengler J, et al. Randomized Trial of Sacroiliac Joint Fusion vs. Conservative Management for Chronic Low Back Pain Attributed to the Sacroiliac Joint. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2019;101(5):400-411. doi: 10.2106/JBJS.18.00022.
- 8. Whang PG, et al. Long-Term Prospective Clinical And Radiographic Outcomes After Minimally Invasive Lateral Transiliac Sacroiliac Joint Fusion Using Triangular Titanium Implants. Med Devices (Auckl). 2019:12:411-422. doi: 10.2147/MDER.S219862.
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- 10. NASS Coverage Policy Recommendations. Minimally Invasive Sacroiliac Joint Fusion. September 22, 2021. https://www.spine.org/Product-Details?productid=%7B9EAC3FC6-AF81-E611-851E-005056AF031E%7D
- 11. Lorio M, Kube R, Araghi A. International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery Policy 2020 Update-Minimally Invasive Surgical Sacroiliac Joint Fusion (for Chronic Sacroiliac Joint Pain): Coverage Indications, Limitations, and Medical Necessity. *Int J Spine Surg.* 2020 Dec;14(6):860-895. doi: 10.14444/7156. Epub 2020 Dec 29. PMID: 33560247; PMCID: PMC7875108.

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