

Remove CPT Add-on Code +47550 from OPPS Inpatient Procedure Only (IPO) List



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The OPPS Inpatient Procedures Only List (IPO) includes CPT Add-on code +47550 “*Biliary endoscopy, intraoperative (choledochoscopy) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)*”, limiting access to this safe and effective procedure in all settings of care for Medicare beneficiaries.

- Added to the OPPS IPO List more than 20+ years ago (CY 2000).
- Primary biliary procedures related to this add-on code have NEVER been on the IPO List.
- Hospitals encourage physicians to admit patients regardless of medical decision-making supporting a more appropriate outpatient setting.



Remove CPT Add-on Code +47550 “*Biliary endoscopy, intraoperative (choledochoscopy) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)*” from the OPPS Inpatient Procedure Only (IPO) List, as soon as possible.

- Improves access for all Medicare beneficiaries.
- Supports physician medical decision-making for more appropriate settings of care for all patients.
- Promotes CMS’s goal of shifting appropriate procedures to a more cost-efficient setting of care.



CPT Add-on Code +47550: Procedure Description

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- The physician performs a biliary endoscopy (***choledochoscopy***) during the same surgical session as other biliary procedures.
- The physician advances an endoscope through the previously made abdominal incision.
- With the endoscope the physician is able to ***directly visualize portions of the biliary tract***, which may be filled with contrast medium for identifying the common bile duct, biliary tree and gall bladder (including areas of abnormality, stricture, or obstruction) under separately reportable fluoroscopy.

Biliary Endoscopy (Choledochoscopy)

Most commonly performed by Interventional Radiologists for patients with complex & challenging clinical needs.



Surgically Altered
Anatomy
(e.g., Gastric Bypass;
Whipple Procedure)



*ASA Category 3/4

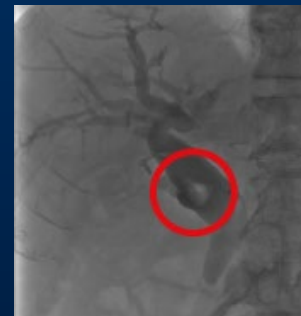


Failed ERCP

*American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Physical Status Classification:

- Category 3 - "A patient with severe systemic disease";
- Category 4 - "A patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life"

Cholangiogram of
common bile duct stone



Direct visualization of
common bile duct w/stone



Direct visualization of
normal common bile duct





Clinical Evidence Supports Safety & Effectiveness in an Outpatient Setting

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Biliary Endoscopy procedures, including choledochoscopy, have been deemed safe in an outpatient setting via peer-reviewed clinical evidence for more than 20 years.

Berci G. ***Intraoperative and postoperative biliary endoscopy (choledochoscopy).*** Surg Clin North Am. 1989 Dec;69(6):1275-86. doi: 10.1016/s0039-6109(16)44988-1. PMID: 2595523.

“The procedure [ed. choledochoscopy] is safe and accurate and can be performed on an outpatient basis.”

Bower BL, Picus D, Hicks ME, Darcy MD, Rollins ES, Kleinhoffer MA, Weyman PJ. ***Choledochoscopic stone removal through a T-tube tract: experience in 75 consecutive patients.*** J Vasc Interv Radiol. 1990 Nov;1(1):107-12. doi: 10.1016/s1051-0443(90)72513-4.

“Fifty-one of the 75 patients were treated as outpatients.”

A C Venbrux, K V Robbins, S J Savader, S E Mitchell, D M Widlus, and F A Osterman, ***Endoscopy as an adjuvant to biliary radiologic intervention.*** Jr Radiology 1991 180:2, 355-361

“Choledochoscopy is a safe, atraumatic, and well-tolerated method of evaluating and treating biliary disease and that it markedly reduces radiation exposure. It can be performed rapidly with minimal sedation on an in- or outpatient basis.”

Hazey JW, McCreary M, Guy G, Melvin WS. ***Efficacy of percutaneous treatment of biliary tract calculi using the holmium:YAG laser*** Surg Endosc. 2007 Jul;21(7):1180-3. doi: 10.1007/s00464-006-9168-6. Epub 2007 Feb 8. PMID: 17287911

“Of the 13 patients, 3 were treated solely as outpatients.”

*CPT Add-on Code
+47550
(choledochoscopy)
can safely and
effectively be
performed in an
outpatient setting*



Hospitals Are Equipped to Perform the Procedure Safely & Effectively in an Outpatient Setting

Annual procedure volumes demonstrate hospitals are equipped to perform this procedure safely and effectively in an outpatient setting for Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare Procedure Volume Trends for CPT Add-on Code +47550				
Year	Total Volume	Inpatient	Outpatient	% Total Outpatient
2013	602	509	93	15.4%
2014	541	462	79	14.6%
2015	450	390	60	13.3%
2016	410	339	71	17.3%
2017	351	299	52	14.8%
2018	326	277	49	15.0%
2019	269	226	43	15.9%
2020	237	186	51	21.5%
Source: 2013-2020 PPSF Medicare Claims Data File (for CPT Add-on Code +47550).				



Primary Biliary Procedures for CPT Add-on Code +47550 Have Never Appeared on the OPPS IPO List

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CPT Code	Description	CY 2022 OPPS APC Assignment
47533	Placement of biliary drainage catheter, percutaneous; external	5341
47534	Placement of biliary drainage catheter, percutaneous; internal-external	5341
47535	Conversion of external biliary drainage catheter to internal-external biliary drainage catheter, percutaneous	5341
47536	Exchange of biliary drainage catheter, percutaneous	5341
47537	Removal of biliary drainage catheter, percutaneous	5301
47538	Placement of stent(s) into a bile duct, percutaneous; existing access	5361
47539	Placement of stent(s) into a bile duct, percutaneous; new access, without placement of separate biliary drainage catheter	5361
47540	Placement of stent(s) into a bile duct, percutaneous; new access, with placement of separate biliary drainage catheter	5361
47541	Placement of access through the biliary tree and into small bowel to assist with an endoscopic biliary procedure (eg, rendezvous procedure), percutaneous	5341
47552	Biliary endoscopy, percutaneous; with collection of specimen(s) brushing and/or washing (separate procedure)	5341
47553	Biliary endoscopy, percutaneous; with biopsy	5341
47554	Biliary endoscopy, percutaneous; with removal of calculus/calculi	5361
47555	Biliary endoscopy, percutaneous; with dilation of biliary duct stricture(s) without stent	5341
47556	Biliary endoscopy, percutaneous; with dilation of biliary duct stricture(s) with stent	5361



Rationale:

- By keeping CPT Add-on Code +47550 (choledochoscopy) on the OPPS IPO List beneficiary access to care is limited, physician medical decision-making is negatively impacted, and overall healthcare spending continues to increase.
 - Choledochoscopy has been considered safe and effective in all care settings for many years.
 - Hospitals are equipped to perform choledochoscopy in the outpatient setting safely and effectively.
 - CPT Add-on Code +47550 (choledochoscopy) is always secondary to primary biliary procedures.
 - Primary biliary procedures are NOT found on the IPO List and are performed in all settings of care.

Recommendation:

- Remove CPT Add-on Code +47550 (Biliary Endoscopy) from the OPPS Inpatient Procedure Only (IPO) List, effective January 1, 2023.



Thank You!