achlorhydria  Absence of free hydrochloric acid in the stomach, reported with ICD-9-CM code 536.0, unless the condition is secondary to a vagotomy in which case it is reported with 564.2.

acholia  Condition in which there is obstructed bile flow into the digestive tract or abnormally low bile secretion. Report this condition with ICD-9-CM code 575.8.

achondroplasia  Congenital anomaly of bone growth and cartilage development in which the arms and legs are abnormally short while the trunk is near normal size. The head is generally large, with a prominent forehead and flat nose. Achondroplasia is reported with ICD-9-CM code 756.4.

achromatopsia  Complete color blindness or total inability to distinguish colors with all hues appearing as lighter or darker shades of grey. Achromatopsia is reported with ICD-9-CM code 368.54. Synonym(s): achromatism, monochromatism.

Achromycin  Brand name for tetracycline, a broad-spectrum antibiotic used to treat various bacterial infections including respiratory tract infections, urethritis, gastrointestinal infections, acne, and biliary tract infections. Supply is reported with HCPCS Level II code J0120.

ACI  Autologous chondrocyte implantation. Staged surgical procedure for treatment of knee defects caused by damage to the hyaline cartilage in which some of the patient’s own cartilage is obtained arthroscopically. Chondrocytes are separated and cultured for several weeks until 5 to 10 million healthy chondrocytes have grown. At the time of implantation, a small portion of periosteum is removed from the patient’s tibia and inserted over the defect. The cultured chondrocytes are then injected under the periosteum, where they will expand and mature, eliminating the defect. Report the arthroscopic removal of the chondrocyte cells with CPT code 29870 and the implantation with CPT code 27412.

acid etching  Process of using an acidic chemical substance to prepare a tooth surface for bonding.

acid pulmonary aspiration syndrome  Pulmonary disorder resulting from aspirating the contents of stomach following vomiting or regurgitation. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 997.39. Synonym(s): Mendelson's syndrome.

acid reflux test  Monitoring of esophageal pH to detect esophageal reflux. A tube inserted into the patient’s esophagus measures the acidity level by a sensor on the tip of a probe. Report this test with a code from CPT range 91034-91038.

ACL  Anterior cruciate ligament. Strong band of connective tissue located in the middle of the knee that connects the lateral condyle of the femur to the tibia, controls rotation, and provides stability.

ACLE  Acute cutaneous lupus erythematosus.

ACLF  Adult congregate living facility.

ACLS  Advanced cardiac life support. Certification for health care professionals who have achieved proficiency in providing emergent care of cardiac and respiratory systems and medication management.

aclusion  Condition in which there is no contact between the biting surfaces of the upper and lower teeth; absence of occlusion, reported with ICD-9-CM code 524.4.

ACMCS  American College of Medical Coding Specialists.

ACMI  Age-consistent memory impairment.

acne  Inflammatory skin disease affecting the sebaceous glands and hair follicles resulting in comedones, papular, and pustular skin eruptions.

ACOG  American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Professional organization for obstetrical and gynecologic or women’s health medical specialty.

acoustic reflex decay test  Middle ear measurement of the acoustic reflex. In a normal ear, the acoustic reflex persists for 10 seconds. In an abnormal ear, it diminishes at least 50 percent in the first five seconds. This test is reported with CPT code 92569.

acoustic reflex testing  Middle ear measurement of stapedius muscle response to a loud sound. This test is reported with CPT code 92568.
Acoustic rhinometry

Technique using sound wave analysis as the waves are reflected from the nasal cavities in order to evaluate nasal obstruction and assess the geometry of the nasal cavity. Acoustic rhinometry is used prior to nasal surgery and to compare the decongestive action of corticosteroids and antihistamines. Report acoustic rhinometry with ICD-9-CM procedure code 89.12 and CPT code 92512. *Synonym(s): rhinomanometry.*

ACP Acid phosphatase.

Acquired Produced by outside influences and not by genetics or birth defect.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome Contagious retroviral disease resulting from infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that can, in severe cases, suppress vital immunity. Several opportunistic infections, such as Kaposis's sarcoma and pneumocystitis pneumonia, are associated with this syndrome. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 042. *Synonym(s): AIDS, ARC, symptomatic HIV.*

ACR 1) American College of Radiology. 2) Adjusted community rate, calculation of what premium the plan charges to provide Medicare-covered benefits for greater frequency of use by participants.

ACRF Acute-on-chronic respiratory failure.

Acro- Extremity, top, highest point.

Acrocephalosyndactylism syndrome Chromosomal condition with webbing of digits and a pointed head and variety of defects. Often associated with other chromosomal abnormalities. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 755.55. *Synonym(s): Apert's syndrome.*

acrocephaly Congenital condition in which the top of the skull is pointed or conical, reported with ICD-9-CM code 756.0.

acromegaly Chronic condition caused by overproduction of the pituitary growth hormone that results in enlarged skeletal parts and facial features. Acromegaly is reported with ICD-9-CM code 253.0.

Acromioclavicular joint Junction between the clavicle and the scapula. The acromion is the projection from the back of the scapula that forms the highest point of the shoulder and connects with the clavicle. Trauma or injury to the acromioclavicular joint is often referred to as a dislocation of the shoulder. This is not correct, however, as a dislocation of the shoulder is a disruption of the glenohumeral joint. *Synonym(s): AC joint.*

Acromioclavicular separation Disruption in the acromioclavicular (AC) joint secondary to tears in the acromioclavicular and coracoclavicular ligaments, resulting in the upper limb falling or separating from the clavicle. Traumatic impact on the tip of the shoulder is often the cause. Acromioclavicular separation is often classified by the Rockwood system, which classifies the degree of the separation and the associated need for surgery. Separations are described as Type I through VI. ICD-9-CM directs the coder to see dislocation for separation, acromioclavicular. Pathological fractures of the AC joint are coded to 718.21.

Acromioplasty Repair of the part of the shoulder blade that connects to the deltoid muscles and clavicle.

Acronym Word formed from the initial letters of a name or by combining initial letters or parts of a series of words.

Acronymx Ingrowing fingernail or toenail, for which surgical treatment may be required. Report this condition with ICD-9-CM code 703.0.

Acrophobia Abnormal fear of heights often successfully treated with behavioral therapy. Report acrophobia with ICD-9-CM code 300.29.

AcrySof ReSTOR Brand name posterior chamber intraocular lens.

ACS Aortocoronary saphenous vein.

ACSW Academy of Certified Social Workers.

ACTH Adrenocorticotropic hormone. Hormone secreted by the anterior pituitary that acts on the adrenal cortex and its secretion of corticosteroids. ACTH is used in hormone replacement therapy and as a diagnostic aid.
A-C

Acthar
Supply is reported with HCPCS Level II code J0800. May be sold under the brand name Acthar.

Acthar Adrenocorticotropic hormone.

ACTHIB Brand name haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine provided in a single-dose vial. Code selection for ACTHIB is dependent upon the patient’s immunization schedule. The number of doses specified does not necessarily have to be given; for children who start the Hib series late, fewer doses may be required. For children who start the schedule on time, CPT code 90648 would be reported. Administration is reported separately. Need for vaccination is reported with ICD-9-CM code V03.81.

ACTHREL See corticorelin ovine triflulate.

Acticon Brand name artificial anal sphincter consisting of a cuff placed around the anal canal, a pressure regulating balloon placed in the abdomen, and a control pump secured in the labium or scrotum. The procedure to implant this system is reported with CPT code 46762. It is performed to treat severe fecal incontinence, reported with ICD-9-CM code 787.6.

actigraphy Science of monitoring activity levels, particularly during sleep. In most cases, the patient wears a wristband that records motion while sleeping. The data are recorded, analyzed, and interpreted to study sleep/wake patterns and circadian rhythms. A minimum of three days worth of recording; with analysis and interpretation, is reported with CPT code 95803.

ACTIMMUNE Brand name drug used to modify or delay disease progression in patients with chronic granulomatous diseases or malignant osteoporosis. ACTIMMUNE contains interferon gamma-1b. Supply is reported with HCPCS Level II code J9016.

actinic keratosis Flat, scaly precancerous lesions appearing on dry, sun-aged, and overexposed skin, including the eyelids. Actinic keratosis is identified by ICD-9-CM code 702.0. Treatment often includes photodynamic therapy, cryotherapy, dermabrasion, or chemical peel. Synonym(s): solar keratosis. NCD Reference: 250.4.

actinic porokeratosis Autosomal skin disease appearing on sun-exposed skin with discolored lesions with depressed centers surrounded by a keratotic rim.

actinotherapy Use of ultraviolet light to treat various skin ailments, reported with CPT code 96900. Synonym(s): phototherapy.

Activa Brand name implanted brain stimulator to suppress symptoms of Parkinson’s disease. A pulse generator implanted under the skin of the abdomen or collarbone sends a steady electrical impulse through a series of wires to electrodes in selected areas of the brain. The electrical impulses block Parkinson’s tremors unilaterally. Two separate systems are necessary to relieve symptoms bilaterally. Implants are reported with CPT codes 61850-61888; programming is reported with 95970-95975.

Activase See alteplase recombinant.

activities of daily living Self-care activities often used to determine a patient’s level of function such as bathing, dressing, using a toilet, transferring in and out of bed or a chair, continence, eating, and walking.

Activwatch Brand name device for monitoring activity levels, particularly during sleep.

ACTSEB Anterior chamber tube shunt to encircling band. An implant for the treatment of glaucoma. Insertion of the shunt is reported with CPT code 66180; revision with 66185; removal with 67120.

actual charge Charge a physician or supplier bills for a service rendered or a supply item.

actuarial assumptions Characteristics used in calculating the risks and costs of a plan, including age, sex, and occupation of enrollees; location; utilization rates; and service costs.

Acu-Form Brand name penile prosthesis, implanted as a treatment for erectile dysfunction. The Acu-Form is not inflatable. Its placement is reported with CPT code 54400 or ICD-9-CM procedural code 64.95.

acupressure Chinese massage providing deep pressure over key meridian points to relieve pain. Acupressure is often administered in the course of other therapeutic modalities in physical therapy, such as massage or manual therapy (CPT codes 97124 and 97140), or osteopathic or chiropractic manipulative treatment (CPT codes 98925-98943). Acupressure cannot be coded separately.

acupuncture Method of producing analgesia by inserting tiny needles into specific sites on the body along channels, called meridians, and twirling, energizing, or warming the needles. Acupuncture is reported with CPT codes 97810-97814. NCD References: 30.3, 30.5.1, 30.3.2.

acute Sudden, severe. Documentation and reporting of an acute condition is important to establishing medical necessity.

acute apical periodontitis Severe inflammation of the oral tissue surrounding the root of a tooth, caused by infection or necrosis of the dental pulp and periapical abscesses. This condition is reported with ICD-9-CM code 522.4.

acute care facility Health care institution primarily engaged in providing treatment to inpatients and diagnostic and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons who are in an acute phase of illness.

acute coronary syndrome Any group of clinical symptoms compatible with acute myocardial ischemia.
acute fractures Complicated limb fracture with severe bony comminution, extensive soft tissue damage, or multiple trauma. External fixation may be required.

acute lymphadenitis Sudden, severe inflammation, infection, and swelling in lymphatic tissue.

acute lymphoblastic leukemia Malignant disease of blood-forming organs, that is progressive, with symptoms of thrombocytopenia, hepatosplenomegaly, anemia, fatigue, and bruising easily. May spread to the central nervous system or other organs. Synonym(s): ALL.

acute megakaryocytic leukemia Malignant disease of the blood and blood-forming organs characterized by predominating numbers of megakaryocytes and platelets in the blood. A type of acute myelogenous leukemia that can occur at any age and is often seen with fibrosis. acute megakaryocytic leukemia is reported with ICD-9-CM codes 207.20-207.22. Synonym(s): acute megakaryoblastic leukemia.

acute monocytic leukemia Malignant disease of the blood and blood-forming organs characterized by predominating numbers of monocytes and monoblasts in the blood, sometimes with a few myelocytes. An uncommon type of acute myelogenous leukemia affecting any age group, acute monocytic leukemia is reported with ICD-9-CM codes 206.00-206.02. Synonym(s): acute Schilling's leukemia.

acute myeloblastic leukemia Malignant disease of the blood and blood-forming organs characterized by predominating numbers of myeloblasts in the blood. A common type of acute myelogenous leukemia affecting infants and middle-aged or older adults, acute myeloblastic leukemia is reported with a code from ICD-9-CM range 205.00-205.02. Synonym(s): acute myeloid leukemia.

acute myelocytic leukemia One of two major categories of acute leukemia (myelogenous/myelocytic and lymphocytic) that includes several types identified by the stage in which abnormal proliferation begins: acute myeloblastic, acute myelomonocytic, acute monocytic, acute erythroleukemia, and acute megakaryocytic leukemia. Symptoms include anemia, bruising, fatigue, weight loss, thrombocytopenia, and prolonged bacterial infections. Synonym(s): acute myelogenous leukemia, AML.

acute myocardial infarction Sudden, severe death of heart muscle due to decreased coronary blood flow. Classification is based on the location of the affected tissue, when known.

acute myocardial ischemia Chest pain due to insufficient blood supply to the heart muscle as a result of coronary artery or heart disease.

acute psycho-organic syndrome Describes a mental health patient who chooses not to participate in day-to-day activities or therapy as a result of emotional, organic or chemical causes. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 293.0.

acute Schilling's leukemia Malignant disease of the blood and blood-forming organs characterized by predominating numbers of monocytes and monoblasts in the blood, sometimes with a few myelocytes. An uncommon type of acute myelogenous leukemia affecting any age group, acute Schilling's leukemia is reported with ICD-9-CM codes 206.00-206.02. Synonym(s): acute monocytic leukemia.

acute swimmer's ear Inflammation of the external auditory canal as a result of irritation caused by ocean water or other seaside environmental factors. Report this condition with ICD-9-CM code 380.12. Synonym(s): ear, otitis externa, tank ear.

ACVB Aortocoronary venous bypass.

ACVD Acute cardiovascular disease.

acyclovir Na Antiviral used to treat mucocutaneous Herpes Simplex Virus-1 (HSV-1) and Herpes Simplex Virus 2 (HSV-2) infections. It is also used to treat any episode of HSV-1 and HSV-2 in immunosuppressed patients and to treat severe initial episodes of HSV-2 (genitalis) in patients with healthy immune systems, as well as long-term therapy for genital herpes. Supply is reported with HCPCS Level II code J0133. May be sold under the brand name Acicual, Avirax, Zovirax.

AD Toward, adherence to, or increase.

AD HCPCS Level II modifier, for use with CPT or HCPCS Level II codes, that indicates medical supervision by a physician for more than four concurrent anesthesia procedures. This modifier affects Medicare payment.

ad lib As desired, at pleasure.

ad part. dolent. To the aching parts.

ad. ad. To be administered.

ad. ad. As desired.

ad. us. ext. For external use.


Adacel Brand name tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine, for patients ages 11 to 64, provided in a single-dose vial. Supply of Adacel is reported with CPT code 90715; administration is reported separately. The need for vaccination is reported with ICD-9-CM code V06.1.

Adair-Dighton syndrome Hereditary condition with symptoms including blue sclera, little growth, brittle bones, and deafness. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 756.51. Synonym(s): van der Hoeve's syndrome.

ADAM Androgen deficiency/decline in aging male. Symptomatic ADAM is reported with ICD-9-CM code A-C
Adams-Stokes (-Morgagni) syndrome
Heart block often causing slow or absent pulse, vertigo, syncope, convulsions, and sometimes Cheyne-Stokes respiration. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 426.9.

Synonym(s): Morgagni’s disease, Spens syndrome, Stokes-Adams syndrome.

Adaptation reaction An abnormal or maladaptive reaction with emotional or behavioral characteristics as a result of a life event or stressor that is usually temporary.

ADAS-L Alzheimer’s Disease Assessment Scale - Late. Survey reviewing patient’s memory, word knowledge, and activities of daily living to assess Alzheimer’s status. Alzheimer’s is reported with ICD-9-CM code 331.0 and a code for the dementia: 294.10 without behavioral disturbance or 294.11 with behavioral disturbance.

Addis test Test to determine the specific gravity of the urine after administering a dry diet for 24 hours.

Addison’s disease Adrenocortical insufficiency caused by destruction of the adrenal cortex from an autoimmune response or tuberculosis, resulting in failure of the adrenal glands to produce aldosterone and cortisol. Addison’s disease is fatal without hormone replacement and presents with hypotension, anorexia, weakness, and discoloration of the skin. This disease is reported with ICD-9-CM code 255.41.

Addisonian syndrome Acute adrenal insufficiency caused by illness, trauma, or large amounts of hormones used as therapy. Symptoms include hypotension, hyperthermia, hyponatremia, hyperkalemia, hypoglycemia, nausea, and vomiting. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 255.41. Synonym(s): Bernard-Sergent syndrome.

additional development request Formal request from a Medicare contractor for additional information needed to determine if a claim is covered and/or payable.

add-on code CPT code representing a procedure performed in addition to the primary procedure and designated with a + in the CPT book. Add-on codes are never reported for stand-alone services but are reported secondarily in addition to the primary procedure.

Adduction Pulling toward a central reference line, such as toward the midline of the body.

Adductor Longus and Adductor Brevis

Adductor Muscle with a pulling function. a. brevis Short muscle connected to the outer, lower surface of the pubic bone and the femur that acts to pull the thigh inwards toward the midline of the body, to rotate, and flex the thigh. a. gracilis Adductor muscle of the thigh connected to the inferior ramus of the pubic bone and medial shaft of the tibia that flexes the knee joint and pulls the thigh inwards toward the midline of the body.

ADE Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. Neurological disorder with brain and spinal cord inflammation. It typically occurs two to three weeks following an infection or immunization. ADE is reported with the ICD-9-CM code for the initial infection, and 323.6 secondarily. Synonym(s): ADEM.

ADEM Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. Inflammation of the brain and spinal cord caused by
damage to the myelin sheath, reported with ICD-9-CM code 323.61.

**Aden fever** Acute, self-limiting disease lasting up to a week, spread by the Aedes mosquito infected with one of four dengue virus serotypes of the Flavivirus genus. The disease is found in the tropics and subtropics and causes fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, generalized aches, prostration, rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and leukopenia. The muscle and joint pain experienced can be so severe the bones feel as if they are breaking. Report Aden fever with ICD-9-CM code 061. **Synonym(s):** breakbone fever, dandy fever, dengue fever.

**adenitis** Inflammation of one or several lymph nodes, related lymphoid tissues, or specific gland. Report according to site, type, and/or infectious agent involved. Unspecified adenitis is reported with ICD-9-CM code 289.3.

**adeno-** Relating to a gland.

**adenocarcinoma** Malignant tumor of a gland.

**Adenocard** Brand name for adenosine, an injectable drug used as an antiarrhythmic in patients with paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia, Wolf-Parkinson-White syndrome, and wide-complex tachycardia. Supply is reported with HCPCS Level II code J0150.

**adenoidectomy** Surgical procedure in which the adenoids (the lymphoid tissue in the back wall and roof of the nasopharynx) are removed, often in conjunction with other procedures such as tonsillectomy or placement of tympanostomy tubes, most often in pediatric patients. When performed alone, report primary removal with ICD-9-CM procedure code 28.6 and CPT code 42830 or 42831. Report removal of recurrent adenoids with CPT code 42835 or 42836.

**adenoma** Epithelial tumor, often benign, in which the cells are derived from glandular tissue or have a glandular structure.

**adenomyosis** Abnormal presence of endometrial glands and tissue within the myometrium, the smooth muscle walls of the uterus, causing hypertrophy of the myometrium. At menses, blood is trapped within the muscle of the uterus, causing pain and cramping. Report adenomyosis with ICD-9-CM code 617.0. **Synonym(s):** endometriosis interna.

**adenopathy** Disease process resulting in enlargement of the lymph glands. Generalized adenopathy is a symptom and not a primary diagnosis, reported with ICD-9-CM code 785.6. Procedures on lymph glands are found in CPT code range 38300-38999 and also referenced in physical examination in the course of an E/M service under a review of the lymphatic system. **Synonym(s):** adenomegaly, lymphadenopathy.

**adenosine 5-monophosphate** Cyclic nucleotide that carries messages from the cell surface to proteins in the cell such as the parathyroid hormone (PTH). The serum test is used to identify pseudohypoparathyroidism and to target organ resistance to PTH. Report CPT code 82030 for serum chemistry test. May be sold under the brand name cAMP, Cyclic AMP.

**ADG** Ambulatory diagnostic group.

**ADH** Antidiuretic hormone.

**adherent leucoma** Dense corneal opacity or scarring attached to the iris.

**adhesion** Abnormal fibrous connection between two structures, soft tissue or bony structures, that may occur as the result of surgery, infection, or trauma.

**adhesion of pupillary membranes** Retention of the fetal membrane that traverses the pupil, resulting in vision loss.

**adhesive capsulitis** Excessive scar tissue in the shoulder, causing stiffness and pain.

**Adie (-Holmes) syndrome** Paralysis of conjugate movement of eyes without paralysis of convergence. Caused by lesions of midbrain. Report this disorder with ICD-9-CM code 379.46.

**adip(o)-** Relating to fat.

**adipectomy** Surgical excision of fatty tissue. Adipectomy can be performed with or without suction-assistance. Correct code selection is dependent upon the anatomical site. **Synonym(s):** lpectomy.

**adiposalgia** Painful areas of subcutaneous fat, reported with ICD-9-CM code 272.8.