Arthrogram Billing Policy

Definition: An arthrogram is a diagnostic procedure used to detect structural and functional problems in joints, including the ankle, knee, hip, wrist, and shoulder joints. These may be performed with CT or MRI enhancement.

Procedure: All diagnostic radiologic procedures must meet the documentation guidelines established by the American College of Radiology (ACR) as follows:
An official interpretation (final report) shall be generated and archived following any examination, procedure, or officially requested consultation regardless of the site of performance (hospital, imaging center, physician office, mobile unit, etc.).

1. The report should include the following:
   a. Description of the studies and/or procedures performed and any contrast media (including concentration, volume, and route of administration when applicable), medications, catheters, or devices used, if not recorded elsewhere. Any known significant patient reaction or complication should be recorded.
   b. Findings: The report should use appropriate anatomic, pathologic, and radiologic terminology to describe the findings.
   c. Clinical Issues: The report should address or answer any specific clinical questions. If there are factors that prevent answering of the clinical question, this should be stated explicitly.
   d. Impression A precise diagnosis should be given when possible, a differential diagnosis should be rendered when appropriate.
      Follow-up or additional diagnostic studies to clarify or confirm the impression should be suggested when appropriate.
      Any significant patient reaction should be reported.

2. All reports should be dated and signed by the performing provider.

3. Coding should include the appropriate joint injection code and the appropriate MRI w/contrast code.
   Example: MRI Arthrogram of the HIP with Contrast under fluoroscopy 20610, 27093, 73525

Note: If prior to injecting steroids into the hip area, under fluoroscopic guidance, the physician injects dye to outline the joint and confirm that the needle location is in the joint capsule and no other pathology is identified; 20610 and 77002 would be appropriate; this does not support billing an arthrogram. I.e.: Joint injections such as Synvisc are not arthrograms unless a supporting diagnostic radiology report is created as documented above.

   Example: Synvisc injection of the Hip under fluoroscopy 20610, 77002, J7325