Medical Specialty Classification Criteria

This document lists NORCAL Mutual’s current medical specialty classifications for physicians and surgeons. Medical specialties having more than one sub-classification also include procedures associated with each sub-classification to enable determination of the correct sub-classification.

Administrative Medicine

Allergy

Anesthesiology

- **Anesthesia (Interventional Pain Management)**
  50% or more of an Anesthesiologist’s practice is devoted to chronic pain management.

- **Anesthesiology**
  All others

Cardiology

- **Cardiology Noninvasive**
  Cardiac MRI
  Cardioversion
  Catheterization - diagnostic – right heart
  CT - spiral CT and electron beam tomography (EBT)
  MUGA scans
  Pacemaker insertion – temporary
  SPECT test
  Stress test – treadmill
  Stress test – myocardial perfusion imaging
  Stress test – stress echo
  Transesophageal echocardiography
  Transtelephonic pacemaker monitoring

- **Cardiology Invasive**
  Angiography – coronary and noncoronary
  Catheterization – diagnostic – left heart
  Electrophysiology procedures
    Automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD) insertion
    Cardiac arrhythmias regulation - catheter ablation
    Cardiac resynchronization therapy
    Electromechanical mapping of myocardium
    Electrophysiology studies
  Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS)
  Pacemaker insertion – permanent
  Pericardiocentesis – diagnostic and therapeutic
• **Cardiology Interventional**
  - Alcohol septal ablation therapy
  - Angioplasty
  - Atherectomy
  - Atrial septal and patent foramen ovale closure
  - Balloon atrial septostomy
  - Brachytherapy - coronary
  - Intracoronary gene therapy
  - Intravascular coiling
  - Percutaneous laser revascularization
  - Roboblation
  - Valvuloplasty

**Cardiac Surgery**

**Colon & Rectal Surgery**

**Critical Care**

**Dermatology**

• **Dermatology (No Surgery)**
  - Botulinum toxin type A injection
  - Chemical peel - AHA
  - Collagen injections
  - Cryosurgery
  - Electrosurgery
  - Hyaluronic acid injection
  - Laser hair removal
  - Laser treatments of benign, premalignant and malignant lesions of the skin or mucous membranes
  - Microdermabrasion
  - Nail surgery
  - Patch testing
  - Photo testing
  - PUVA therapy
  - Sclerotherapy
  - Skin and nail biopsy, including fine needle aspiration – performance and interpretation
  - Wound repair – simple

• **Dermatology (Minor Surgery)**
  - Chemical peel – TCA
  - Dermabrasion or Dermal planing
  - Hair restoration surgery – grafts only
  - Laser skin resurfacing
  - Mohs micrographic surgery
  - Radiation therapy for skin disorders
Skin flap – other than major
Skin graft – other than major
Wound repair – intermediate

- **Dermatology (Including Cosmetic Surgery)**
  - Ambulatory phlebectomy
  - Blepharoplasty
  - Chemical peel – phenol
  - Facelift
  - Hair restoration surgery – flap surgery, scalp reduction or tissue expansion
  - Liposuction
  - Microlipoinjection (autologous fat injection)
  - Skin flap – major
  - Skin graft – major
  - Soft tissue augmentation – collagen implants, fat transplantation, etc.
  - Wound repair – complex

**Emergency Room Practice**

**Endocrinology**

**Family Practice**

- **Family Practice (No Surgery)**
  - Assisting in surgery
  - Arthrocentesis
  - Biopsy – needle or incisional
    - Of lesions limited to the mucous membranes of the endometrium, mouth, nose throat, uterine cervix or vagina
    - Breast
    - Lymph node
  - Botulinum toxin injection for pain management
  - Colposcopy
  - Culdocentesis
  - Digital blocks
  - EKG testing and interpretation
  - Gastric lavage
  - Joint injection (non-spinal)
  - Myofascial trigger point injection
  - Myringotomy
  - Osteopathic manipulation other than manipulation under anesthesia
  - Prenatal care (first trimester only)
  - Pulmonary function testing and interpretation
  - Treatment of cysts, abscesses and superficial wounds and lacerations using local anesthesia
  - Venipuncture
• **Family Practice (Minor Surgery)**
  All No Surgery procedures and the following:

  Arterial line placement
  Biopsy
  - Bone marrow
  - Liver
  - Lung
  Bronchoscopy
  Catheterization - right heart
  Central line placement
  Circumcision - infant or adult
  Colonoscopy (i.e., beyond 60cm)/intraluminal biopsy beyond 60cm
  Conization of cervix
  Cryosurgery of the cervix
  Dilation and curettage of the uterus (other than for the termination of pregnancy)
  Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD)
  Fracture reduction - closed reduction of simple fractures
  Hemorrhoid treatments and other procedures limited to the anal ring - non surgical
  - Infrared photocoagulation
  - Laser coagulation
  - Rubber band ligation
  - Sclerotherapy
  Hysteroscopy - diagnostic only
  Insertion of IUD
  Laryngoscopy
  Leeps/Leetz procedure
  Lumbar puncture/spinal tap
  Manipulation under anesthesia
  Nasopharyngoscopy
  Paracentesis
  Sigmoidoscopy - flexible or rigid (including intraluminal biopsy performed no farther than 60 cm)
  Thoracentesis/Pleuracentesis
  Vasectomy
  Venous cutdown
• **Family Practice (Major Surgery)**
  All No Surgery and Minor Surgery Procedures and the following:

  Adenoidectomy
  Amputation surgery
  Anal fistulectomy
  Appendectomy
  Anterior and/or posterior vaginal wall repair
  Biopsy
    - Breast
    - Lymph node
    - Scalene node
    - Thyroid
  Cardioversion – elective
  Carpal tunnel surgery
  Cholecystectomy – open or laparoscopic
  Exchange transfusions
  Fracture reductions (closed reduction other than simple)
  Fracture repair – surgical
  Hemorrhoid treatment – surgical
  Hernia repair
  Hydrocelectomy
  Hymenotomy
  Hysterectomy
  Hysteroscopy – operative
  Oophorectomy
  Pacemaker insertion – temporary
  Salpingectomy
  Tendon repair
  Tonsillectomy
  Tubal ligation
  Vein stripping

• **Family Practice (Including Obstetrics/No C-Sections)**
  All no surgery and minor surgery and the following:

  Abortion – first trimester only
  Therapeutic abortion – first or second trimester
  Amniocentesis
  Dilation and curettage of the uterus
  Episiotomy repair
  Labor and delivery, but excluding caesarean sections
  Prenatal care (beyond first trimester)
  Tubal ligation (post-partum)
• **Family Practice (Including Obstetrics and C-Sections)**
  All no surgery and minor surgery and the following:

  Abortion – first trimester only
  Therapeutic abortion – first or second trimester
  Amniocentesis
  Caesarean section
  Dilation and curettage of the uterus
  Episiotomy repair
  Labor and delivery, but excluding caesarean sections
  Prenatal care (beyond first trimester)
  Tubal ligation (post-partum)
  Vaginal births after C-section (VBACs)

**Gastroenterology**

**General Surgery**

• **General Surgery**
  All procedures usual and customary for a General Surgeon to perform except Bariatric surgery

• **General Surgery (Including Bariatrics)**
  All procedures usual and customary for a General Surgeon to perform, including Bariatric surgery

**General Medicine**

**General Preventive Medicine**

**Gynecology**

• **Gynecology**
  All procedures usual and customary for a Gynecologist to perform

• **Gynecology (Including Cosmetic Surgery)**
  All procedures usual and customary for a Gynecologist to perform
  Elective cosmetic surgery for which appropriate training and proctoring has been obtained

**Hematology**

**Hospitalist**
Internal Medicine

- **Internal Medicine Non-Invasive**
  - Arterial line placement
  - Assisting in surgery
  - Biopsy - needle or incisional
    - Bone marrow
    - Breast
    - Endometrium
    - Intraluminal colon
    - Kidney
    - Lymph node
    - Mouth
    - Nose
    - Skin
    - Throat
    - Thyroid
  - Central line placement
  - Chelation therapy – for treatment of heavy metal poisoning
  - Electrocardiogram (ECG) performance and interpretation
  - Endoscopy
    - Anoscopy
    - Sigmoidoscopy - flexible or rigid
  - Endotracheal intubation
  - Holter monitor performance and interpretation
  - Joint injection
  - Lumbar puncture/spinal tap
  - Osteopathic manipulation
  - Pacemaker insertion – temporary
  - Pap smears
  - Paracentesis (abdominal)
  - Pericardiocentesis
  - Pulmonary function testing and interpretation
  - Snare polypectomy
  - Thoracentesis/Pleuracentesis
  - Trigger point injections
  - Venipuncture
  - Ventilator management

- **Internal Medicine Invasive**
  - All non-invasive procedures and the following:
    - Angiography - noncoronary
    - Angiography - coronary
    - Biopsy - excisional
    - Cardioversion - elective
    - Endoscopy
      - Bronchoscopy
      - Colonoscopy
      - Esophagogastrroduodenoscopy (EGD)
    - Swan Ganz placement & monitoring
Neonatology

Nephrology

Neurology

- **Neurology (Non-Interventional)**
  All procedures usual and customary for a Neurologist to perform except interventional pain management procedures or interventional procedures

- **Neurology (Interventional)**
  All procedures usual and customary for a Neurologist to perform, including:
  - Interventional pain management procedures
  - Carotid angioplasty and stenting
  - Endovascular GDC coils
  - External ventricular drainage
  - Phrenic nerve pacing
  - Thrombolytic therapy
  - Vagus nerve stimulator implants

Neurosurgery

Nuclear Medicine

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Oncology

Ophthalmology

- **Ophthalmology (No Surgery)**
  - Botulinum Toxin Type A injections for blepharospasms and strabismus
  - Eye examinations including tonometry, gonioscopy, visual field testing and perimetry
  - Foreign body removal - non-intraocular/superficial
  - Prescription of contacts and glasses
  - Punctual closure – plugs

- **Ophthalmology (Minor Surgery)**
  - Biopsy of conjunctiva, cornea, extraocular muscle, vitreous and temporal
  - Chalazion excision from eyelid
  - Cryotherapy
  - Fluorescein angiography
  - Iridectomy/Iridotomy
  - Laser ablation of corneal lesions
  - Laser capsulotomy
  - Laser iridoplasty
  - Punctual closure – laser, cauterization or ligation
  - Laser trabeculoplasty
Lid repair – ectropion or entropion  
Pterygium excision  
Silicon injections for the treatment of retinal detachment  
Trabeculectomy  
Tarsorrhaphy  
Wedge resection for tumors

- **Ophthalmology (Major Surgery)**  
  AK (Astigmatic Keratotomy)  
  ALK (Automated Lamellar Keratoplasty)  
  Blepharoplasty – cosmetic or functional  
  Cataract removal surgery  
  Clear lens extraction  
  CK (Conductive Keratoplasty)  
  Conjunctivoplasty  
  Corneal transplantation  
  Enucleation  
  Eyelid ptosis surgery  
  Foreign body removal – intraocular  
  Intraocular lens implants (phakic or after removal of natural lens)  
  INTACS implants  
  LASEK  
  LTK (Laser Thermal Keratoplasty)  
  LASIK – conventional or wavefront-guided  
  Epi-LASIK  
  Intra-LASIK  
  Orbitotomy  
  PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy)  
  RK (Radial Keratotomy)  
  Retinal Surgery  
  Strabismus surgery  
  Vitrectomy  
  Other refractive surgery not specified above

**Orthopedic Surgery**

- **Hand Surgery**  
  Orthopedic surgical procedures limited to the treatment and surgery of the hand and wrist, as well as the structures of the upper extremity directly affecting the form and function of the hand and wrist

- **Orthopedic Surgery (No Spinal Surgery)**  
  All procedures usual and customary for an Orthopedic Surgeon to perform except spinal surgery

- **Orthopedic Surgery (Including Spinal Surgery)**  
  All procedures usual and customary for an Orthopedic Surgeon to perform except spinal surgery
Otolaryngology

- **Otolaryngology (No Cosmetic Surgery)**
  All procedures usual and customary for an Otolaryngologist to perform except cosmetic surgery of the head and neck

- **Otolaryngology (Including Cosmetic Surgery)**
  All procedures usual and customary for an Otolaryngologist to perform, including:
  
  - Cheek implant
  - Chin implant
  - Chemical peel - Phenol
  - Facelift
  - Forehead lift (brow lift)
  - Hair restoration surgery - other than grafts
  - Liposuction
  - Microlipoinjection (autologous fat injection)
  - Otoplasty - cosmetic
  - Rhinoplasty - cosmetic

Pain Management

Pediatrics

Perinatology

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

- **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**
  Acupuncture
  Anesthetic or corticosteroid injection
    - Intercostal
    - Joint (other than spinal)
    - Myofascial trigger point
    - Peripheral nerve
  Botulinum toxin injection for pain management
  Electrodiagnostic evaluations such as electromyography and nerve conduction studies
  Manipulation and massage
  Osteopathic manipulation
  Physical therapy and other rehabilitative therapies
  Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS)

- **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Interventional Pain Management)**
  All procedures listed above and the following interventional and pain management procedures:
  Epidural injection - local anesthetic and/or corticosteroid
    - Caudal
    - Cervical
    - Lumbar
    - Thoracic
  Facet joint injection - local anesthetic and/or corticosteroid
Cervical
Lumbar
Thoracic
Sympathetic nerve injection - local anesthetic, neurolytic or other
Celiac plexus
Lumbar
Stellate ganglion
Other
Discography
Cervical
Lumbar
Thoracic
Epidural lysis of adhesions
Epidural/Spinal catheter placement
Epidural/Spinal endoscopy
Fluoroscopy
Intrathecal/Epidural infusion pump implant
Intrathecal/Epidural infusion pump implant refilling and reprogramming
Lumbar discograms
Neuroablative techniques
Cryoneurolysis (aka, cryoanalgesia or cryoneuroablation)
Radiofrequency nerve ablation
Other
Neurostimulation device implants/reprogramming
Peripheral nerve stimulation
Spinal cord stimulation
Nucleoplasty
Percutaneous lumbar discectomy
Single-shot intrathecal injection
Vertebroplasty/kyphoplasty

Plastic Surgery

Psychiatry

- Psychiatry (No Convulsive Shock Treatment)
  Procedures usual and customary to Psychiatry except convulsive shock therapy

- Psychiatry (Including Convulsive Shock Treatment)
  Procedures usual and customary to Psychiatry including convulsive shock therapy

Pulmonary Disease

Radiology

- General Diagnostic Radiology
  Arteriography - non-coronary
  Biopsy of the breast, kidney, pelvis, liver, lung, lymph node, thorax, thyroid, head and neck and extremities
  Central venous access catheter insertion
  CT scans and CT guided procedures and contrast injections (including cardiac)
  Discography
Epidural injection
Facet injection
Fluoroscopic examinations and fluoroscopically guided procedures
Gastrostomy tube insertion
General radiographic interpretation
Intravenous contrast injections
Mammography – screening or diagnostic
Myelography
MRI interpretation and MRI guided procedures and contrast injections (including cardiac)
Nerve root block
Ultrasound interpretation and ultrasound guided procedures and contrast injections
Venography

• **Diagnostic/Interventional Radiology**
  Angioplasty – coronary
  Angioplasty – non-coronary
  Aortic stent-graft placement
  Arteriography – coronary
  Atherectomy
  Biliary drainage and stenting
  Biopsy of the brain, pancreas and spine
  Cerebral vascular Embolization and coiling
  Chemoembolization
  Fallopian tube catheterization and tuboplasty
  Hemodialysis access maintenance
  Inferior vena cava filter placement
  Kyphoplasty
  Radiofrequency ablation (excluding intra-cardiac)
  Stent placement
  Thrombolysis
  Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt (TIPS)
  Uterine artery embolization
  Uterine fibroid embolization
  Vertebroplasty

• **Therapeutic Radiology**
  Brachytherapy
  External Beam Therapy (EBT)
    - 3-D
    - Hyperfractionated radiation therapy
    - Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
    - stereotactic

**Reproductive Endocrinology**

**Rheumatology**

**Surgical**

• **Surgical Assistant**
  100% assisting in surgery and not performing pre-op or post-op evaluations of patients
- **Surgical Specialist (Office Practice and Assisting)**
  This classification is only available to a trained surgeon who has limited his or her practice to an office-based practice and assisting in surgery. Eligible specialists include:
  - Cardiac Surgery
  - Colon and Rectal Surgery
  - General Surgery
  - Gynecology
  - Hand Surgery
  - Neurosurgery
  - Obstetrics and Gynecology (including Perinatologists)
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
  - Orthopedic Surgery
  - Otolaryngology
  - Plastic Surgery
  - Thoracic Surgery
  - Vascular Surgery

**Therapeutic Radiology**

**Thoracic Surgery**

**Urgent Care**

**Urology**

**Vascular Surgery**