

A Category III CPT code was implemented 07/01/2010 for platelet rich plasma injections. SonoSite would like to provide the following information:

The AMA announced the following Category III code will be implemented 07/01/2010 and published in the 2011 CPT codebook:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0232T Injection(s), platelet rich plasma, any tissue, including image guidance, harvesting and preparation when performed 	Released Jan 1, 2010 Implemented July 1, 2010	CPT 2011
(Do not report 0232T in conjunction with 20550, 20551, 20926, 76942, 77002, 77012, 77021, 86965)		

The complete publication may be found at:

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/362/cptcat3codes.pdf>

Category III codes as described by the AMA:

“Background information for Category III codes

CPT Category III codes are a set of temporary codes that allow data collection for emerging technology, services, and procedures. These codes are intended to be used to substantiate widespread usage or to provide documentation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process. The CPT Category III codes may not conform to the usual CPT code requirements as follows:

- Services or procedures must be performed by many health care professionals across the country.
- FDA approval must be documented or be imminent within a given CPT cycle.
- The service or procedure has a proven clinical efficacy.
- The service or procedure must have relevance for research, either ongoing or planned”

Regarding payment:

“CPT Category III codes are not referred to the AMA-Specialty RVS Update Committee (RUC) for valuation because no relative value units (RVUs) are assigned to these codes. Payment for these services or procedures is based on the policies of payers and not on a yearly fee schedule.”

Currently Medicare and the majority of third party payers have policy that PRP therapy is not covered as “investigational/experimental”.

In addition the code description is written to include both the injection and image guidance; **no image guidance of the injections is reported separately.**

Please feel free to contact SonoSite Reimbursement staff at 1-888-482-9449.