

**FACET ARTHROPATHY or ARTHRITIS of the SPINE or  
INFLAMMATORY SPONDYLOPATHY**

**TIP# 9**

**M46.90 through M46.99 HCC 40**

All 3 of the above code to inflammatory spondylopathy as in the below table.

The important question to the provider is, is there inflammation?

Inflammation is suggested by several symptoms: pain, stiffness, relief with anti-inflammatory perhaps

Support documentation includes and must be present:

- **Symptoms**
  - o Back pain or pain in a specific part of the spine
  - o Tenderness evoked on percussion of facet joints, paraspinal muscle spasms and tenderness on palpation
  - o Range of motion reduced on lateral flexion or forward flexion 90 degrees
- **Radiological findings**
  - o CT, X-Ray, MRI, or Bone Scan report that states:
  - o Arthritis of the spine (or a reasonable facimile of that statement)
  - o Facet arthritis or arthropathy
  - o Inflammatory spondylopathy – **INFLAMMATORY is the key word**
- **Interventions:**
  - o Physical Therapy
    - o Massage
    - o Exercises and stretches
    - o TNS unit
    - o Traction
  - o Pain Management such as facet joint blocks/injections etc. with relief from pain

M4690	Inflammatory Spondylopathy, Site Unspecified	40
M4691	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, occipito-atlanto-axial region	40
M4692	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, cervical region	40
M4693	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, cervicothoracic region	40
M4694	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, thoracic region	40
M4695	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, thoracolumbar region	40
M4696	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, lumbar region	40
M4697	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, lumbar region	40
M4698	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, sacral and sacrococcygeal region	40
M4699	Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, multiple sites in spine	40

**TIPS on Facet Joint Arthropathy Documentation**

Please use the following template for documentation of Facet Arthropathy of the Spine or Arthritis of the Spine

**Evaluation of Facet Joint Arthropathy: A Template**

- 1) **Symptoms:**
  - a) Pain (site, duration, intensity, nature, relieving factors, aggravating factors, radiation)
  - b) Stiffness
  - c) Location
  - d) Past treatment and results
- 2) **Signs:**
  - a) Palpation (tenderness, spasm)
  - b) Percussion (evoked tenderness on percussion of facet joints)
  - c) Range of motion: forward flexion, lateral flexion, rotation
  - d) Specialized tests (Faber, Gaenslen, etc.)
- 3) **Investigations:**
  - a) Radiological (X-Ray, MRI, CT)
  - b) Facet joint injections
- 4) **Prior treatments:**
  - a) Consults from pain management, neurosurgery
  - b) PT evaluation

**Assessment and Plan:** The clinical presentation including symptoms, exam, investigations and prior interventions show inflammation in facet joints leading me to conclude that the patient suffers from Facet Joint Arthropathy. Patient has been advised anti-inflammatory/PT/Pain management/conservative management, etc.

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**Coding/Documentation Reminders:**

**Please let your billing staff know of the following:**

Please see below **NEW** codes as of 10/1/2019 for reporting HbA1c- more specific reporting codes for lab result. **Note: As of 10/1/2019 -- 3045F is deleted HbA1c level 7.0-9.0%**

<b>3044F</b>	Most recent hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level less than 7.0% (DM)
<b>3051F</b>	Most recent hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level greater than or equal to 7.0% and less than 8.0% (DM)
<b>3052F</b>	Most recent hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level greater than or equal to 8.0% and less than or equal to 9.0% (DM)
<b>3046F</b>	Most recent hemoglobin A1c level greater than 9.0% (DM)

Please let your staff know as soon as possible. This is a **triple weighted HEDIS measure** for all plans. Using this information when billing will help on HEDIS scores.