

Postoperative Follow-Up Visits in Total Joint Arthroplasty: A Multicenter Study Evaluating CPT-99024 Reimbursement

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INTRODUCTION: Reimbursement for total joint arthroplasty (TJA) has assumed an average of 2 postoperative follow-up visits (PFUs) during the 90-day global period, however some proponents suggest that these procedures might be overvalued due to a potential reduction in PFUs during the global period. This study aimed to evaluate the average PFUs from 2 institutions and evaluate factors that may contribute to potential differences in PFU frequency.

METHODS: This study evaluated the PFUs of patients at 2 institutions that received primary TJA (THA - CPT 27130; TKA - CPT 27447) and completed their 90-day global period during the period 1/1/2018 to 7/31/2024. The years 2020 and 2021 were used to evaluate PVUs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESULTS: 6,674 patients at 2 institutions were evaluated and the average number of PFUs for TKA and THA combined was 1.97. When evaluating PVUs at 1 institution, the percentage of patients with 2 PVUs during the COVID-19 pandemic (C19) was less than other years (C19 66%, 77%). However, the opposite result was found in the other institution (C19 68%, 59%). When evaluating the difference in PFUs by surgery type, THA and TKA patients both had average PFUs that were significantly different from the expected average of 2 (THA 1.89, TKA 2.04). PFUs of the first primary TJA were compared to PFUs of the TJA of the contralateral limb, and both groups had fewer PFUs following their contralateral surgery (THA 1.90, 1.82; TKA 2.08, 1.82).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: This study shows that PFU frequency in TJA was significantly different during C19, despite there being opposing effects across institutions. Additionally, PFUs were significantly different depending on surgery type and the presence of contralateral surgery. Although this study is unable to draw conclusions about PFU frequency on the national level, it helps illustrate differences across several factors.