

A Guide to Reimbursement

Methacholine Challenge Test



This resource was designed to ensure you are aware of the drug reimbursement code (J-code) and the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT codes) that you should be billing for with each methacholine challenge test.

CODE OVERVIEW

Product Reimbursement

Each vial of Provocholine contains 100 mg of methacholine chloride

J-7674 – One unit for each mg of methacholine chloride delivered to the patient

J7674-JW – One unit for each mg of methacholine chloride discarded

Procedure Code

95070 – One unit for administering the methacholine

94070 – One unit which covers the multiple spirometric determinations included in the bronchospasm evaluation

Methacholine challenge tests are usually considered medically necessary when the following ICD-10 codes are used:

J45.20	Mild intermittent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.30	Mild persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.40	Moderate persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.50	Severe persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.909	Unspecified asthma, uncomplicated
J45.998	Other asthma
R06.9	Unspecified abnormalities of breathing
R06.4	Hyperventilation
R06.01	Orthopnea
R06.81	Apnea, not elsewhere classified
R06.3	Periodic breathing
R06.02	Shortness of breath
R06.82	Tachypnea, not elsewhere classified
R06.2	Wheezing
R06.00	Dyspnea, unspecified
R05	Cough

PRODUCT EXAMPLE

If you used a 100 mg vial of Provocholine for one patient, you would bill for 100 units combined under the J-code and JW-code. If you place 43mg of methacholine in the nebulizer over the course of a test, you would bill for 43 units under the J-code and the remaining 57 units under the JW-code.

Provocholine[®]
(methacholine chloride)

CPT Code	CMS Description	Additional References
95070	Inhalation bronchial challenge testing (not including necessary pulmonary function tests); with histamine, methacholine, or similar compounds	A single encounter for this type of test is coded as 95070 when methacholine is the agent used for testing. Pulmonary function testing studies are not included in the bronchial challenge tests and are coded separately (see CPT code 94070 below).
94070	Bronchospasm provocation evaluation, multiple spirometric determinations as in 94010, with administered agents (eg: antigen(s), cold air, methacholine)	The multiple spirometric determinations performed during a methacholine challenge test are included in this code.

Place of Service: Testing is billed differently in the hospital outpatient department compared to the physician office setting.

- In the hospital setting the professional and technical codes are usually bundled as an APC code.
- In a physician office setting the professional and technical codes are billed separately. Reimbursement for the CPT codes outlined above, vary based on region. To find out how much you should be reimbursed for each of the codes in your area visit CMS.gov and use the Physician Fee Schedule Search.

Note: It is very important to consult with your billing department or coders to improve understanding of the reimbursement rules in your local area.

WARNING: SEVERE BRONCHOCONSTRICTION

Severe bronchoconstriction can result from Provocholine administration (including the lowest dose). The use of Provocholine is contraindicated in pediatric and adult patients with baseline FEV₁ < 60% predicted or adults with FEV₁ < 1.5 L. Because of the potential for severe bronchoconstriction, the use of Provocholine in patients with clinically apparent asthma or wheezing is not recommended [see Warnings and Precautions – Section 5.1 of the Prescribing Information].

Emergency equipment and medication should be immediately available to treat acute respiratory distress. If severe bronchoconstriction occurs, reverse immediately with a rapid-acting inhaled bronchodilator agent (β-agonist) [see Warnings and Precautions – Section 5.1 of the Prescribing Information].

If baseline spirometry is not performed or is measured inaccurately, the initial FEV₁ may be underestimated. In this situation, decreases in FEV₁ may not be detected after administration of escalating Provocholine doses, which may result in administration of unnecessary higher doses and an increased risk for excessive bronchoconstriction [see Warnings and Precautions – Section 5.1 of the Prescribing Information].

Please consult the package insert for full prescribing information available for download at www.provocholine.com or on request by calling Methapharm Medical Information at 1-866-701-4636. You are encouraged to report adverse reactions of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit MedWatch or call 1-800-FDA(332)-1088. This information is provided as a professional courtesy, and it is intended to provide data available to us that may assist you in deriving your own conclusions and opinions. This information is not intended to advocate any indications, dosage, or other described in the package insert. For all other inquiries, please call 1-833-887-7686 for Customer Service.

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