



2023 CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR

# Cardiac Ablation and Left Atrial Appendage Management

AtriCure

## 2023 Coding and Reimbursement Considerations

### Introduction

This information is shared for educational purposes and current as of January 2023. Healthcare providers are solely responsible for the accuracy of codes selected for the services rendered and reported in the patient's medical record. AtriCure does not assume responsibility for coding decisions, nor recommend codes for specific cases. Items and services that are billed to payers must be medically necessary and supported by appropriate documentation. AtriCure does not promote the off-label use of its devices. While a code may exist describing certain procedures and/or technologies, this does not guarantee payment by payers.

### Product Offerings

AtriCure product offering includes: Bipolar Radiofrequency (RF) and Cryoablation surgical ablation devices; the AtriClip® Left Atrial Appendage Management System (LAAM); Epi-Sense® coagulation device, LARIAT® suture delivery device and cryoICE® cryo nerve block (cryoNB).

**Table 1. Physician Coding and Reimbursement\***

Current Procedure Terminology (CPT®) are codes describing the procedure during the patient visit. CPT codes that may be appropriate for procedures used in conjunction with cardiac ablation surgery, catheter ablation or LAAM are included below.

CPT**	Description	CY 2023 Physician Work Relative Value Units (RVUs)***	CY 2023 Physician Total RVU	CY 2023 National Payment Rates
<b>Cardiac Surgical Ablation</b>				
33250	Operative ablation of supraventricular arrhythmogenic focus or pathway without cardiopulmonary bypass	25.90	42.67	\$1,446
33251	Operative ablation of supraventricular arrhythmogenic focus or pathway with cardiopulmonary bypass	28.92	47.83	\$1,621
33254	Operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, limited (e.g., modified Maze procedure)	23.71	39.93	\$1,353
33255	Operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, extensive (e.g., Maze procedure); without cardiopulmonary bypass	29.04	47.61	\$1,613
33256	Operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, extensive (e.g., Maze procedure); with cardiopulmonary bypass	34.90	56.42	\$1,912
*33257	Operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, performed at the time of other cardiac procedure(s), limited (e.g., modified Maze procedure)	9.63	17.16	\$582
*33258	Operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, performed at the time of other cardiac procedure(s), extensive (e.g., Maze procedure); without cardiopulmonary bypass	11.00	19.09	\$647
*33259	Operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, performed at the time of other cardiac procedure(s), extensive (e.g., Maze procedure); with cardiopulmonary bypass	14.14	24.89	\$843
33265	Endoscopy, surgical; operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, limited (e.g., modified Maze procedure); without cardiopulmonary bypass	23.71	40.01	\$1,356
33266	Endoscopy, surgical; operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria, extensive (e.g., Maze procedure); without cardiopulmonary bypass	33.04	54.07	\$1,832
<b>Mitral Valve Surgery</b>				
33420	Valvotomy mitral valve; closed heart	25.79	42.53	\$1,441
33422	Valvotomy mitral valve; open heart, with cardiopulmonary bypass	29.73	48.76	\$1,652
33425	Valvuloplasty, mitral valve, with cardiopulmonary bypass	49.96	79.94	\$2,709
33426	Valvuloplasty, mitral valve, with cardiopulmonary bypass; with prosthetic ring	43.28	69.80	\$2,365
33427	Valvuloplasty, mitral valve, with cardiopulmonary bypass; radical reconstruction, with or without ring	44.83	71.38	\$2,419
33430	Replacement, mitral valve, with cardiopulmonary bypass	50.93	82.08	\$2,781

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\*Atrial appendage ligation, plication, or AtriClip is included in mitral valve and Maze procedures and should not be reported separately when performed in the same session as these procedures.

\*\*Source: American Medical Association. CPT 2023 Professional Edition.

\*\*\*The facility payment is the physician's professional fee in a facility setting. Average national rates are unadjusted by Geography Practice Cost Index. Payment rates reflect a conversion factor of \$33.8872 (effective first quarter 2023).

+Indicates a secondary add-on procedure code to be listed with primary procedure code.

^Certain Electrophysiology codes have bundled payments when billed together. If codes 93653, 93613 and 93621 are billed together, the payment is only at the 93653 rate. Similarly, if codes 93656, 93613 and 93662 are billed together, the payment is only at the 93656 rate.

**Limited operative ablation:** Surgical isolation of triggers of supraventricular dysrhythmias by operative ablation that isolates the pulmonary veins or other anatomically defined triggers in the left or right atrium.

**Extensive operative ablation:** Services in limited ablation definition and additional ablation of atrial tissue to eliminate supraventricular dysrhythmias. This must include operative ablation that involves either the right atrium, the atrial septum or left atrium in continuity with the atrioventricular annulus.



**Table 1. Physician Coding and Reimbursement** *continued*

CPT*	Description	CY 2023 Physician Work Relative Value Units (RVUs)***	CY 2023 Physician Total RVU	CY 2023 National Payment Rates
<b>Aortic Valve Surgery</b>				
33390	Valvuloplasty, aortic valve, open, with cardiopulmonary bypass; simple (i.e., valvotomy, debridement, debulking, and/or simple commissural resuspension)	35.00	56.44	\$1,913
33391	Valvuloplasty, aortic valve, open, with cardiopulmonary bypass; complex (e.g., leaflet extension, leaflet resection, leaflet reconstruction, or annuloplasty)	41.50	66.90	\$2,267
33405	Replacement, aortic valve, open, with cardiopulmonary bypass; with prosthetic valve other than homograft or stentless valve	41.32	66.53	\$2,255
33406	Replacement, aortic valve, open, with cardiopulmonary bypass with allograft valve (freehand)	52.68	84.48	\$2,863
33410	Replacement, aortic valve, open, with cardiopulmonary bypass with stentless tissue valve	46.41	74.46	\$2,523
33411	Replacement, aortic valve; with aortic annulus enlargement, noncoronary sinus	62.07	98.10	\$3,324
33412	Replacement, aortic valve with transventricular aortic annulus enlargement (Konno procedure)	59.00	91.90	\$3,114
33413	Replacement, aortic valve; by translocation of autologous pulmonary valve with allograft replacement of pulmonary valve (Ross procedure)	59.87	94.15	\$3,190
<b>CABG</b>				
33533	Coronary artery bypass, using arterial graft(s); single arterial graft	33.75	54.90	\$1,860
33534	Coronary artery bypass, using arterial graft(s); 2 arterial grafts	39.88	64.44	\$2,184
33535	Coronary artery bypass, using arterial graft(s); 3 arterial grafts	44.75	71.67	\$2,429
33536	Coronary artery bypass, using arterial graft(s); 4 or more arterial grafts	48.43	77.10	\$2,613
<b>Surgical LAAM and Select Imaging Studies</b>				
33267	Exclusion of left atrial appendage, open, any method	18.50	30.64	\$1,038
*33268	Exclusion of left atrial appendage, concomitant, any method	2.50	3.82	\$129
33269	Exclusion of left atrial appendage, thoracoscopic, any method	14.31	24.24	\$821
93312.26	Transesophageal echocardiogram; complete	2.30	3.12	\$106
*93662.26	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention	1.44	2.16	\$73
<b>Electrophysiology Cardiac Ablation, Percutaneous LAAM and Select Imaging Studies</b>				
33340	Percutaneous transcatheter closure of the left atrial appendage with endocardial implant, including fluoroscopy, transseptal puncture, catheter placement, left atrial angiography, left atrial appendage angiography, when performed, and radiological supervision and interpretation	14.00	22.96	\$778
33999	Unlisted procedure, cardiac surgery	At payer discretion		
93312.26	Transesophageal echocardiogram; complete	2.30	3.12	\$106
*93462	Left heart catheterization by transseptal puncture through intact septum or by transapical puncture	3.73	6.11	\$207
*93613^	Intracardiac EP 3-dimensional mapping	5.23	8.62	\$292
93621.26^	With left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium	1.50	2.41	\$82
93631.26	Intra-operative epicardial and endocardial pacing and mapping to localize the site of tachycardia or zone of slow conduction for surgical correction	7.59	11.56	\$392
93653^	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording and catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, right ventricular pacing and recording, left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium, and His bundle recording, when performed; with treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathway, accessory atrioventricular connection, cavo-tricuspid isthmus or other single atrial focus or source of atrial re-entry	15.00	24.69	\$837
93654	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording and catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, right ventricular pacing and recording, left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium, and His bundle recording, when performed; with treatment of ventricular tachycardia or focus of ventricular ectopy including left ventricular pacing and recording, when performed	18.10	29.77	\$1,009
*93655	Intracardiac catheter ablation of a discrete mechanism of arrhythmia which is distinct from the primary ablated mechanism, including repeat diagnostic maneuvers, to treat a spontaneous or induced arrhythmia	5.50	9.06	\$307
93656^	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including transseptal catheterizations, insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with intracardiac catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation by pulmonary vein isolation, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, intracardiac echocardiography including imaging supervision and interpretation, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing/recording, right ventricular pacing/recording, and His bundle recording, when performed	17.00	28.01	\$949
*93657	Additional linear or focal intracardiac catheter ablation of the left or right atrium for treatment of atrial fibrillation remaining after completion of pulmonary vein isolation	5.50	9.06	\$307
*93662.26^	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention	1.44	2.16	\$73

Table 2. Inpatient Facility Coding and Reimbursement

The site of service depends on the patient’s chief complaint, clinical presentation and is solely determined by the admitting physician. The ICD-10-CM (Internal Classification of Disease, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification) Diagnosis Code(s) and primary ICD-10-PCS (procedure coding system)(s) determine the MS-DRG (Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Group).

MS-DRG*	Description	FY 2023 Weighting System	FY 2023 Arithmetic Mean LOS	FY 2023 Inpatient National Standardized Prospective Payment
Cardiac Valve				
216	Cardiac valve and other major cardiothoracic procedures with cardiac catheterization with MCC	9.74	14.5	\$66,825
217	Cardiac valve and other major cardiothoracic procedures with cardiac catheterization with CC	6.35	7.3	\$43,550
218	Cardiac valve and other major cardiothoracic procedures with cardiac catheterization without CC/MCC	5.94	3.4	\$40,737
219	Cardiac valve and other major cardiothoracic procedures without cardiac catheterization with MCC	8.13	11.0	\$55,756
220	Cardiac valve and other major cardiothoracic procedures without cardiac catheterization with CC	5.44	6.5	\$37,282
221	Cardiac valve and other major cardiothoracic procedures without cardiac catheterization without CC/MCC	4.73	4.0	\$32,456
CABG (Note: in 2022, a majority of CABG + SA cases now route to DRGs 233 and 234)				
231	Coronary bypass with PTCA with MCC	8.39	12.1	\$57,573
232	Coronary bypass with PTCA without MCC	5.86	8.3	\$40,182
233	Coronary bypass with cardiac catheterization or open ablation with MCC	7.74	12.7	\$53,126
234	Coronary bypass with cardiac catheterization or open ablation without MCC	5.19	8.5	\$35,575
235	Coronary bypass without cardiac catheterization with MCC	5.99	9.6	\$41,088
236	Coronary bypass without cardiac catheterization without MCC	4.08	6.3	\$27,976
Cardiac Surgical Ablation				
228	Other cardiothoracic procedures with MCC	4.93	8.9	\$33,806
229	Other cardiothoracic procedures without MCC	3.30	3.5	\$22,643
Percutaneous Catheter Ablation				
273	Percutaneous intracardiac procedures with MCC	4.01	5.8	\$27,527
274	Percutaneous intracardiac procedures without MCC	3.36	1.6	\$23,044

CC = comorbidity or complication, MCC = major complication or comorbidity, w/o = without, PTCA = percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.  
\*Source: FY 2023 Medicare inpatient rates based upon Final Rule release. Conversion Factor = \$6,859.50

Table 3. Outpatient Hospital Reimbursement

CPT	Procedure Description	CY 2023 Comprehensive APC*	CY 2023 APC Title	CY 2023 Medicare National Standardized APC Payment (HOPPS)
Percutaneous Catheter Ablation				
93653	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording and catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, right ventricular pacing and recording, left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium, and His bundle recording, when performed; with treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathway, accessory atrioventricular connection, cavo-tricuspid isthmus or other single atrial focus or source of atrial re-entry	5213	Level 3 EP Procedure	\$23,481
93654	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia with right atrial pacing and recording and catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, right ventricular pacing and recording, left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium, and His bundle recording, when performed; with treatment of ventricular tachycardia or focus of ventricular ectopy including left ventricular pacing and recording, when performed			
93656	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including transseptal catheterizations, insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with intracardiac catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation by pulmonary vein isolation, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, intracardiac echocardiography including imaging supervision and interpretation, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing/recording, right ventricular pacing/recording, and His bundle recording, when performed			

CPT codes 93653, 93654, and 93656 are assigned to APC 5213, as these CPT codes include both a diagnostic study and ablation in a single code. These also have a status of J1, and one will typically be the primary code in a case.

\*Source: FY 2023 Medicare outpatient rates based upon Final Rule release.

Peer-Reviewed Evidence

Clinical evidence in support of surgical cardiac ablation and left atrial appendage surgical closure, includes, but is not limited to, the following peer-reviewed publications. Citations are available upon request.

Cardiac surgical ablation with/without concomitant cardiac surgery (CABG, MVR, AVR)

Ad, N. et al. (2012). Surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation trends and outcomes in North America. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg, 144(5):1051-60.

Badhwar, V. et al. (2017). The Society of Thoracic Surgeons 2017 clinical practice guidelines for the surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation. Ann Thorac Surg, 103(1):329-41.

Badhwar, V. et al. (2017). Surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation in the United States: Trends and propensity matched outcomes. Ann Thorac Surg, 104(2):493-500.

DeLurgio, D.B. et al. (2020). Hybrid Convergent Procedure for the Treatment of Persistent and Long-Standing Persistent Atrial Fibrillation: Results of CONVERGE Clinical Trial. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol, 13(12):e009288.

Gillinov, A.M. et al. (2015). Surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation during mitral-valve surgery. N Engl J Med, 372(15):1399-409.

Musharbash, F.N. et al. (2018). Performance of the Cox-maze IV procedure is associated with improved long-term survival in patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing cardiac surgery. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg, 155(1):159-70.

Philpott, J.M. et al. (2015). The ABLATE trial: safety and efficacy of Cox Maze-IV using a bipolar radiofrequency ablation system. Ann Thorac Surg, 100(5):1541-8.

Rankin J.S. et al. (2020). Surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation concomitant to coronary-artery bypass grafting provides cost-effective mortality reduction. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg, 160(3): 675-86.

Concomitant cardiac surgery with either (CABG, MVR, AVR) and surgical left atrial appendage management

Caliskan, E. et al. (2018). Epicardial left atrial appendage AtriClip occlusion reduces the incidence of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing cardiac surgery. Europace, 20(7):e105-14.

Elbadawi, A. et al. (2017). Impact of left atrial appendage exclusion on cardiovascular outcomes in patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting (From the National Inpatient Sample Database). Am J Cardiol, 120(6):953-8.

Friedman, D.J. et al. (2018). Association between left atrial appendage occlusion and readmission for thromboembolism among patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing concomitant cardiac surgery. JAMA, 23;319(4):365-74.

Park-Hansen, J. et al. (2018). Adding left atrial appendage closure to open heart surgery provides protection from ischemic brain injury six years after surgery independently of atrial fibrillation history: the LAACS randomized study. J Cardiothorac Surg, 23;13(1):53.

Soltesz, E.G. et al. (2021). Improved outcomes in CABG patients with atrial fibrillation associated with surgical left atrial appendage exclusion. J Card Surg, 36(4):1201-8.

Whitlock, R.P. et al. (2021). LAAOS III Investigators. Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion during Cardiac Surgery to Prevent Stroke. N Engl J Med, 384(22):2081-91.

**Table 4. Common ICD-10 codes used during LAAM, cardiac surgery and EP ablation procedures**

ICD-10 CM	Diagnosis Description
I47.1	Supra ventricular tachycardia
I48.0	Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
I48.1	Persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.11	Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.19	Other persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.2	Chronic atrial fibrillation
I48.20	Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified
I48.21	Permanent atrial fibrillation
I48.3	Typical atrial flutter
I48.4	Atypical atrial flutter
I48.91	Unspecified atrial fibrillation
I48.92	Unspecified atrial flutter
I49.8	Other specified cardiac arrhythmias
R00.0	Tachycardia unspecified (inappropriate sinus tachycardia)
R55	Syncope and collapse
ICD-10 PCS	Procedure Description
02563ZZ	Destruction of right atrium, percutaneous
02564ZZ	Destruction of right atrium, percutaneous endoscopic
02560ZZ	Destruction of right atrium, open
02573ZZ	Destruction of left atrium, percutaneous
02574ZZ	Destruction of left atrium, percutaneous endoscopic
02570ZZ	Destruction of left atrium, open
02583ZZ	Destruction, conduction mechanism, percutaneous
02584ZZ	Destruction, conduction mechanism, percutaneous endoscopic
02580ZZ	Destruction, conduction mechanism, open
025S0ZZ	Destruction of right pulmonary vein, open
025S3ZZ	Destruction of right pulmonary vein, percutaneous
025S4ZZ	Destruction of right pulmonary vein, percutaneous endoscopic
025T0ZZ	Destruction of left pulmonary vein, open
025T3ZZ	Destruction of left pulmonary vein, percutaneous
025T4ZZ	Destruction of left pulmonary vein, percutaneous endoscopic
02B70ZK	Excision of left atrial appendage, open
02B73ZK	Excision of left atrial appendage, percutaneous
02B74ZK	Excision of left atrial appendage, percutaneous endoscopic
02L73DK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage with intraluminal device, percutaneous
02L74DK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage with intraluminal device, percutaneous endoscopic
02L73ZK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage, percutaneous
02L74ZK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage, percutaneous endoscopic
02L70CK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage with extraluminal device, open
02L73CK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage with extraluminal device, percutaneous
02L74CK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage with extraluminal device, percutaneous endoscopic

\*Source: FY23 AMA ICD-10 PCS codebook

**Open approach:** An open approach is defined as cutting through the skin or mucous membrane and any other body layers necessary to expose the site of the procedure.

**Percutaneous approach:** A procedure performed via a percutaneous approach (character value 3) is one in which there is entry, by puncture or minor incision, of instrumentation through the skin or mucous membrane and any other body layers necessary to reach the site of the procedure.

**Percutaneous endoscopic approach:** Percutaneous endoscopic approach (character value 4) is defined as entry, by puncture or minor incision, of instrumentation through the skin or mucous membrane and any other body layers necessary to reach and visualize the site of the procedure.

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