Provider Checklist-Outpatient – Imaging

Checklist: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Elbow
(CPT Code: 73221, 73222, 73223)

All Indications [*One has to be present]*

*Chronic monarticular joint pain [All have to be present]*

Symptoms at elbow [One has to be present]

Joint pain
Locking

Findings at elbow [Two have to be present]

Pain with passive ROM
Limited ROM
Tenderness
Crepitus
Joint effusion/swelling

Elbow x−ray nondiagnostic for etiology of pain
Continued symptoms after Rx [Both have to be present]

NSAID [One has to be present]

-1 Rx ≥ 4 wks
-2 Contraindicated/not tolerated

OT/PT ≥ 6 wks

*Suspected intra−articular loose body [All have to be present]*

Symptoms at elbow [One has to be present]

Joint pain
212 Locking

Findings at elbow [Two have to be present]

Pain with passive ROM
Limited ROM
Clicking/crepitus

Elbow x-ray nondiagnostic for loose body

*Suspected avascular necrosis (osteonecrosis), radial head [All have to be present]

Elbow pain
Pain with passive ROM
Elbow x-ray nondiagnostic for avascular necrosis
Radial head fracture/nonunion of fracture by imaging
Continued pain after immobilization ≥ 6 wks

*Suspected osteomyelitis [Both have to be present]

Findings [One has to be present]

ESR > 30 mm/hr
Temperature > 100.4 F(38.0 C)
WBC > 10,000/cu.mm(10x109/L)
Blood culture positive
C-reactive protein > 10 mg/L

Elbow x-ray nondiagnostic for osteomyelitis

*Suspected ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) injury [All have to be present]

Elbow injury by Hx
Tenderness of medial elbow
Instability with valgus stress testing

*Suspected biceps/triceps tendon tear [Both have to be present]

Elbow injury by Hx
Weakness of flexion/extension