

**Provider Checklist-Outpatient -Imaging**

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

All Indications [**\*One has to be present**]

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

Symptoms at wrist [**One has to be present**]

Joint pain  
Locking

Findings at wrist [**Two have to be present**]

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

Wrist x-ray nondiagnostic for etiology of pain  
Continued Sx/findings after Rx [**Both have to be present**]

NSAID [**One has to be present**]

-1 Rx  $\geq$  4 wks  
-2 Contraindicated/not tolerated

Splint/cast  $\geq$  6 wks

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

Symptoms at wrist [**One has to be present**]

Joint pain  
Locking

Findings at wrist [**Both have to be present**]

Pain with passive ROM  
Limited ROM  
Wrist x-ray nondiagnostic for loose body

\*Suspected ligamentous/TFCC injury [**All have to be present**]

Injury to wrist by Hx  
Wrist pain  
Findings at wrist [**Both have to be present**]

Pain with provocative wrist maneuvers/palpation  
Weakness

Wrist x-ray nondiagnostic for etiology of pain  
Continued Sx/findings after NSAID [**One has to be present**]

Rx  $\geq$  4 wks  
Contraindicated/not tolerated

\*Suspected avascular necrosis (osteonecrosis), lunate [**All have to be present**]

Pain at proximal carpal row by Hx  
Pain with passive ROM  
Tenderness at lunate  
Wrist x-ray nondiagnostic for avascular necrosis  
Continued pain after immobilization  $\geq$  6 wks

\*Suspected avascular necrosis (osteonecrosis), scaphoid [**All have to be present**]

Wrist pain  
Pain with passive ROM  
Wrist x-ray nondiagnostic for avascular  
Scaphoid fracture/nonunion of fracture by imaging  
Continued pain after immobilization  $\geq$  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 (10x10<sup>9</sup>/L)  
Blood culture positive  
C-reactive protein  $>$  10 mg/L

Wrist x-ray nondiagnostic for osteomyelitis



\*Suspected scaphoid fracture [**All have to be present**]

- Pain at scaphoid
- Pain with passive ROM/palpation of scaphoid
- X-ray nondiagnostic for fracture at initial evaluation
- Pain unimproved after immobilization  $\geq 1$  wk and repeat x-ray nondiagnostic for fracture