

MERCI Retriever

Question: According to the Michigan Inpatient Database, there were only 28 Merci procedures under code #3974 last year in all of Michigan. That number seems low to me. Is there anyone out there doing endovascular procedures who could give me some numbers related to the Merci? We are investigating the ROI for this procedure. If there is another procedure code used, I would like to know that as well. Thanks.

The information from Concentric Medical (manufacturer of the MERCI device) is to use ICD-9-DM 39.74 for the procedure. This is the endovascular removal of a clot.

Barbara Coslow, RN, MS, NP
William Beaumont Hospital

The American Society of Interventional & Therapeutics Neuroradiology has guides for both hospital and physician coding. The guide for hospital coding has additional information but in general the ICD-9-CM Procedure Code to be used is 39.74. The DRG to be used is 543 under the old DRG numbering system. As of 2007, the average Medicare payment for DRG 453 was \$23,092 with an average length of stay of 11.6 days. Under the new DRG system it would be DRG 025, 026 or 027. I don't have any information on reimbursement under the new system.

I'm not sure what other information they are interested in but we have been using MERCI for several years so I may be able to help with other information. If the person who submitted the question would like to email me directly, I will try to answer any questions.

Donna Lindsay

Concentric sent me several items that should be helpful to you. We have a large endovascular program. Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute in Kansas City, MO. Will be glad to help answer questions, coding is not my specialty, but can find help for you. I am the APN for the ischemic stroke team and in ED and radiology during the day when acute strokes come in.

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I would contact Concentric Medical, they have a billing and coding packet to help people figure out the codes etc for reimbursement for physician and hospital coding. They were instrumental in getting the reimbursements increased with CMS. Our sales rep who is based out of Indianapolis is Melissa Dillman. She can help get this for you. Tell her I gave you her name, she is super helpful. The company has been very helpful with getting this info out to whoever wants it. Her email is: mdillman@concentric-medical.com

Ronald F. Budzik, Jr., M. D.
Riverside Interventional Consultants
Interventional Neuroradiology/Neurointerventional Surgery

I would point you first to our website which is rich with this type of material as well as physician reimbursement information and calculators. We also have the ability to look up the reimbursement and stroke volume history for specific hospitals through some database access that we maintain here at the home office. We have national reimbursement and economic experience that you can draw from and I hope that we get a chance to talk soon. The website address that will likely answer most of your questions is <http://www.concentric-medical.com/reimbursement.html>

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