



Case Study:

Inappropriate Multi-coding (Urology)

Case Details

- A 50+ year old patient with asymptomatic microscopic haematuria found on screening presented to surgeon for further investigation.
- CT urogram revealed multiple bilateral stones. A first attempt at endoscopic treatment was unsuccessful due to severe spasm. Indwelling ureter stents were left in place to expedite dilation.
- Two weeks later surgeon performed RIRS and stone extraction for both kidneys, and submitted a MediShield Life claim with 6 TOSP codes for this surgical episode.

Claim Adjudication

- Case notes and supporting documents were requested from the doctor and medical institution.
- An independent Specialist Panel appointed by the MediShield Life Council reviewed the treatment and claim.

Panel Findings and Decision

The Panel found that components of the provided treatment claimed were deemed to be inappropriate.

1. **2 x SG709B:** These should not have been coded separately as they were already part of the main procedure (SG727K).
2. **SG711B:** This should not have been coded separately as it was already part of the main procedure (SG727K).

Key Learning Points

- Doctors should not claim multiple codes for individual surgical steps which are already part of a surgery described by a single TOSP code.
- Additional documentation may be required as evidence for the Panel's deliberation on the appropriateness of the treatment and MediShield Life claim.

Summary of TOSP Codes

TOSP Codes Submitted by Doctor				Decision by Panel
S/n	Code	Description	Table	
1	SG727K*	Kidney/Ureter, Retrograde Intrarenal Surgery Or RIRS Using Flexible Ureteroscopy (Therapeutic - e.g. Lithotripsy And/Or Basket Extraction Of Stones)	4A	✓ Appropriate
2	SG727K*		4A	
3	SG700U	Ureter, Cystoscopy and insertion of double J stent	2C	✓ Appropriate
4	SG709B	Bladder, Cystoscopy, removal of foreign body/ureteric stent	1C	✗ Inappropriate
5	SG709B		1C	
6	SG711B	Bladder, Cystoscopy, with endoscopic removal/manipulation of ureteric calculus	3B	✗ Inappropriate

- The total charges from inappropriate items or codes amounted to approximately \$8,100.
- Enforcement action will be taken against the doctor who certified the inappropriate claim. Egregious or repeated non-compliances will lead to suspension or revocation of the doctor's MediSave and MediShield Life accreditation.

**This case is from 2023. As of Jan 2024, the description for SG727K has been updated to "Kidney/Ureter, Retrograde Intrarenal Surgery Or RIRS Using Flexible Ureteroscopy (Therapeutic - e.g. Lithotripsy And/Or Basket Extraction Of Stones < 1CM)."*