Coding, coverage and payment for LYMPHOSEEK® imaging

1. CPT® codes

CPT® 78195 — Lymphatics and lymph node imaging. (For sentinel node identification without scintigraphy imaging report CPT® 38792)

CPT® 38792 — Injection procedure; radioactive tracer for identification of sentinel node

HCPCS code

HCPCS A9520 — Technetium Tc-99m tilmanocept, diagnostic, up to 0.5 millicuries (MUE 1)

Note: The Medicare Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) lists A9520 as having a Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) of 1 unit. An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary.

2. Coverage

Medicare and most commercial payers have coverage for sentinel node scintigraphy.

The individual’s medical record must reflect the medical necessity for the care provided.

If performing a bi-lateral mapping procedure than append with modifier -50 to the procedure code and bill one unit.

3. Payment

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS)

2020 national average payments in a Non-facility (non-hospital outpatient department)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS code</th>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Non-facility payment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38792</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>78195</td>
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<td>$306.76</td>
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</table>

LYMPHOSEEK® is reported with HCPCS code A9520 and is paid separately based on either AWP or per invoice depending on the local Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) reimbursement rule.

4. NDC codes

The Kit for the preparation of LYMPHOSEEK® (technetium Tc 99m tilmanocept) injection (NDC 65857-450-05) includes:

- Five vials of Tilmanocept Powder, 250 mcg (NDC 65857-400-01)
- Five vials of Diluent for LYMPHOSEEK® (NDC 65857-401-45)
- Prescribing information
- Five labels for shields
- 25 labels for product vials and individual syringes

Hospital Outpatient Department (HOPPS)

2020 Medicare national average payments

HCPCS code A9520 (LYMPHOSEEK®) is not paid separately, it is packaged into procedure APC payment rate.

CPT® code 38972 is located in APC 5591

CPT® code 78195 is located in APC 5592

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HCPCS code</th>
<th>Modifier</th>
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CARDINALHEALTH

Essential to care®
**Indication and Usage**

LYMPHOSEEK® (technetium Tc 99m tilmanocept) injection is a radioactive diagnostic agent indicated with or without scintigraphic imaging for:

- Lymphatic mapping using a handheld gamma counter to locate lymph nodes draining a primary tumor site in patients with solid tumors for which this procedure is a component of intraoperative management.
- Guiding sentinel lymph node biopsy using a handheld gamma counter in patients with clinically node negative squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, breast cancer or melanoma.

**Important Safety Information**

**Warnings and Precautions**

- LYMPHOSEEK® may pose a risk of hypersensitivity reactions due to its chemical similarity to dextran. Serious hypersensitivity reactions have been associated with dextran and modified forms of dextran (such as iron dextran drugs). No serious hypersensitivity reactions were reported in clinical trials with LYMPHOSEEK®.
- Before administering LYMPHOSEEK®, ask patients about prior hypersensitivity reactions to drugs, especially to dextran and modified forms of dextran. Have resuscitation equipment and trained personnel immediately available at the time of LYMPHOSEEK® administration.
- LYMPHOSEEK® is a radioactive drug and should be handled by or under the control of qualified and licensed physicians with appropriate safety measures to help minimize radiation exposure.
- Any radiation-emitting product may increase the risk for cancer, especially in pediatric patients. Adhere to the dose recommendations and ensure safe handling to minimize the risk for excessive radiation exposure to either patients or health care workers.

**Adverse Reactions**

- The most common adverse reactions are injection site irritation and injection site pain (<1%).
- There were no serious adverse reactions seen in clinical trials.

**Use in Specific Populations**

- No data are available on LYMPHOSEEK® use in pregnant women. If considering LYMPHOSEEK® administration to a pregnant woman, inform the patient about the potential for adverse pregnancy outcomes based on the radiation dose from the drug and the gestational timing of exposure.
- No data are available regarding the presence of technetium Tc 99m tilmanocept in human milk, the effects of the drug on the breastfed child, or the effects of the drug on milk production. The benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother’s clinical need for LYMPHOSEEK® and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child. If considering LYMPHOSEEK® administration to a lactating woman, advise to pump and discard breast milk for 24 hours after injection to decrease radiation exposure to the breastfed infant.
- Safety and effectiveness of LYMPHOSEEK® in patients less than 18 years of age have not been established.
- In clinical studies, no differences in safety or efficacy have been identified between elderly patients (65 to 90 years of age) and younger patients (18 to 65 years of age).

Full LYMPHOSEEK® prescribing information can be found at lymphoseek.com

**Source:** [https://www.cms.gov/](https://www.cms.gov/)

Reimbursement information is provided by Cardinal Health as general coding and payment information and is not legal advice or a substitute for legal or professional counsel. This information is not intended to replace or serve as substitute for your duty to verify that such information is proper for your particular circumstances. Any codes reported should accurately reflect the procedures performed and the patient’s conditions. You may want to consult with local payers to confirm compliance with local policies, or otherwise review and confirm reimbursement policies with your own legal or other professional advisors. The information contained on this website may or may not reflect the most current developments; accordingly, information on this website is not guaranteed to be correct, complete or up to date. Cardinal Health expressly disclaims all liability in respect to actions taken or not taken based on any or all of the contents of this website.

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