



Clinical Indicators: Septoplasty

<u>Procedure</u>	CPT	Days¹
Septoplasty or submucous resection, with or without cartilage scoring, contouring or replacement with graft	30520	090

Indications

1. History (one or more required)

- a) Nasal airway obstruction (unilateral or bilateral) causing any of the following: mouth breathing, snoring, nasal congestion, sleep apnea, unresponsive to medical management.
- b) Frequent nosebleeds, unresponsive to medical management, and for which deviation is a causative factor.
- c) Atypical facial pain of nasal origin. (Positive response to topical anesthetic, where deformed septum contacts a turbinate or lateral wall, supports, but may not prove, septal causation or contribution.)
- d) Asymptomatic deformity that prevents surgical access to other intranasal or paranasal areas, e.g., sinuses, turbinates.

2. Physical Examination (all appropriate findings required)

- a) Description of complete intranasal exam.
- b) Document presence or absence of nasal polyps, tumors, turbinate hypertrophy, nasal valve compromise, or other causes of obstruction.
- c) Documentation of suspected bleeding site if the purpose of surgery is to control epistaxis.

3. Tests... optional

- a) Nasal endoscopy.
- b) Computed tomography (CT)

Postoperative Observations

- a) Bleeding or septal hematoma?

¹ RBRVS Global Days



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- b) Pain?
- c) Packing or internal splint in the desired location and subsequently removed if placed?

Outcome Review

1. One Week

- a) Healing--Did patient require treatment for bleeding, septal hematoma, or infection?

2. Beyond One Month

- a) Presenting problem--Is it (see history) improved?
- b) Status of septum--Is septal configuration desirable? Is there a perforation?

Associated ICD-9 Diagnostic Codes (Representative, but not all-inclusive, codes)

- 470 Deviated nasal septum
- 471.8 Other polyp of sinus
- 471.9 Unspecified nasal polyp
- 478.19 Other diseases of nasal cavity and sinuses
- 738.0 Acquired congenital deformity of nose
- 748.1 Other congenital anomalies of nose
- 784.7 Epistaxis
- 802.0 Closed fracture nasal bones
- 802.1 Open fracture nasal bones

Patient Information

Septoplasty is an operation to correct a deformity of the partition between the two sides of the nose. The usual purpose is to improve breathing, but it may also be required as part of the management of polyps, inflammation, tumors, atypical facial pain, or bleeding. When the nasal septum is deformed and associated symptoms are present, there is no medicine that will cause it to be straightened, so surgery is the best solution to this problem. Uncommon side effects that may be associated with surgery include a hole in the septum, failure to completely improve breathing, postoperative bleeding (usually straightforward to control), nasal crusting or scarring, and very rarely, a change in appearance.



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