Clinical Indicators: Nasal Septal Fracture

**Procedure** | **CPT** | **Days**
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Nasal fracture--closed reduction | 21315 | 90
Open reduction--uncomplicated | 21325 | 90
Open reduction--skeletal fixation | 21330 | 90
Closed treatment--without manipulation | 21310 | 90
Closed treatment--with stabilization | 21320 | 90
Open reduction--with open treatment of septum | 21335 | 90
Open treatment--with or without stabilization | 21336 | 90
Closed treatment--with or without stabilization | 21337 | 90

**Indications**

1. **History** (required)
   a) Recent nasal trauma with deformity

2. **Physical Examination** (required)
   a) Evidence of nasal fracture (with or without concomitant septal fracture)
   b) Nasal airway evaluation
      - obstruction
      - hematoma
      - septal deviation

3. **Tests**
   a) Nasal radiographs (optional)
   b) Pre-operative photographs

**Postoperative Observations**

a) Skin edema and ecchymosis--documented observation.
b) Position of splint and/or nasal packing.
c) Pain--if progressive and severe, notify surgeon.
d) Bleeding--how managed? Surgeon informed?

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1 RBRVS Global Days
Outcome Review

1. One Week
   a) Healing--Did patient require treatment for bleeding or infection?
   b) Appearance--Is fracture reduction satisfactory?
   c) Nasal airway evaluation.

2. Beyond Two Months
   a) Appearance--Is appearance of nose improved?
   a) Nasal airway evaluation
      • Is nasal breathing satisfactory?
      • Airway--Is nasal breathing satisfactory?
      • If nasal obstruction existed pre-operatively, is it improved?
      • Are there synechiae?

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

470  Deviated nasal septum
802.0  Nasal bones, closed fracture
802.1  Nasal bones, open fracture

Additional Information
Assistant Surgeon -- N
Supply Charges -- N
Prior Approval -- N
Anesthesia Code(s) -- 00160

Patient Information

Nasal fractures are common. If no airway obstruction or nasal deformity has occurred due to the fracture, surgical treatment may not be needed. For nasal fractures resulting in deformity or airway obstruction, surgery may be indicated to open the nasal passage and/or improve appearance. Surgery for nasal trauma may not be able to completely correct the traumatic deformity and/or may not correct preexisting deformities. Nasal infection, bleeding, or hematoma are possible, yet infrequent complications.

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