



Endoscopic Carpal Tunnel Release with Balloon Access Reimbursement Suggestions:

In the current medical-economic environment, a new technique or device must have a reimbursement plan that is well developed.

Balloon Carpal Tunnelplasty (BCTP) will be covered by existing reimbursement codes. Recent increases in endoscopic carpal tunnel release (**CPT 29848**) make this reimbursement greater than traditional open carpal tunnel release (**CPT 64721**; neuroplasty and/or transposition) for facilities and surgeons alike, while decreasing pain, improving outcomes and minimizing post-op recovery.

Reimbursement for **BCTP** release can be submitted using **CPT 29848** since an endoscope is used to confirm that the median nerve enjoys significant clearance from the expansion of the TCL and other carpal structures. (As an alternative, it may also be used to complete the release of the TCL). The additional **CPT 11960**-Tissue expansion may also be used.

Such endoscopic examination gives the surgeon confidence and reinforcement that the **BCTP** procedure has made meaningful and immediately visible improvement.

**Comparison of BCT/ECTR vs. Open CTR Reimbursement
ICD-9 354.0 Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**

Reimbursements are estimates only, and vary from region to region

	<i>Endoscopic CTR or BCT</i>	<i>Open CTR</i>
Code -facility	29848-ECTR 11960 - Tissue Expansion	64721-neuroplasty and/or transposition, median nerve
CPT Reimbursement Medicare, AMA Codebook	\$1339	\$446
Est. Facility -Medicare	\$1400	\$472
Est. Facility-Private	\$2000	\$1000
Est. Physician Fee - Medicare	\$555.90	\$500
Est. Physician Fee - Private	\$2900	\$2200
Est. Physician Fee - Workman's Compensation	\$3500	\$2000

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