

CHAPTER 3  
SECTION 3.1

## MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Issue Date: August 26, 1985

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)\(2\)](#) and [\(c\)\(3\)](#)

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

**20000 - 29909**

II. DESCRIPTION

The musculoskeletal system pertains to or comprises the skeleton and the muscles.

III. POLICY

A. Services and supplies required in the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury involving the musculoskeletal system are covered. FDA-approved surgically implanted devices are also covered.

B. Effective August 25, 1997, autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI) surgery for the repair of clinically significant, symptomatic, cartilaginous defects of the femoral condyle (medial, lateral or trochlear) caused by acute or repetitive trauma is a covered procedure. The autologous cultured chondrocytes must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

C. Single or multilevel anterior cervical microdiscectomy with allogenic or autogenic iliac crest grafting and anterior plating is covered for the treatment of cervical spondylosis.

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