**Arthrogram**

**What is an Arthrogram?**
Fluoroscopy is a special form of X-ray that produces real-time video images, as opposed to pictures on film, making it possible to see internal organs and joints in motion. Arthrography is the fluoroscopic examination of a joint by a radiologist to assess its anatomy and function. A contrasts material (iodine) is injected into the joint and creates the video image called an arthrogram.

**CPT Codes**
73040 Shoulder (most common)  
73580 Knee 73525 Hip 73115 Wrist 73085 Elbow

**Indications**
Diagnose persistent, unexplained joint pain or identify abnormalities in the shoulder (rotator cuff tear), knee, wrist, elbow or ankle.

**Contraindications**
Pregnancy, allergy to iodine, known infection on, or around, the joint.

**How Does Your Patient Prepare?**
Patients on Coumadin should stop taking their medication three days before the procedure. Patients on Plavix/Ticlid/Aggrenox need to stop taking medications three days before the exam. If a recent X-ray (post-injury) has been done, please send it along, or send an order and we will perform an X-ray prior to the exam.

**What Happens During the Test?**
A medical history of the patient will be obtained. The patient will be positioned on the examination table. The skin around the joint will be cleansed with antiseptic and a local anesthetic will be injected into the area. Contrast material will be injected into the area. The patient will be asked to move the affected joint to distribute the contrast material throughout the space. Still images are then obtained with the joint in various positions. The examination is usually completed within 30 minutes.

**After The Exam**
The patient should rest the joint for about 12 hours and use ice and ibuprofen for any swelling, pain, and an expected level of tenderness. The patient should refrain from strenuous activity and intense physical exercise for one to two days.

**The Results**
A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within one business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org, Dr. James Choi and Dr. Paul Keller)

This information is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff members only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Shawnee Mission Medical Center Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies.
Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders:
CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.

Additional codes: Injection portion: 23350 shoulder, 27370 knee, 27093 hip, 25246 wrist per compartment injected. MRI under fluoroscopic guidance: 77002 and 73222 shoulder, 77002 and 73722 knee, 77002 and 73722 hip, and 77002 and 73222 wrist.