

ACUTE, SUBACUTE, OR CHRONIC DISEASES—Continued

Rating

- Note (2):** When evaluating based on chronic joint residuals, evaluate each affected major joint or group of minor joints on findings such as limitation of motion, ankylosis, joint instability, *etc.*, under the appropriate diagnostic code, and combine each with an evaluation for pain under § 4.59 when appropriate.
- Note (3):** Separately evaluate extra-articular manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis, such as pulmonary fibrosis; pleural inflammation; weakness or atrophy of muscles; emaciation; anemia; vasculitis (of skin or systemic); neuropathy, such as peripheral nerve neuropathy, entrapment neuropathy, and cervical myelopathy; pericarditis; Sjogren's syndrome (dry eyes and mouth); and eye complications (such as scleritis and episcleritis), under the appropriate diagnostic code(s), unless used to support an evaluation under diagnostic code 5002.
- Note (4):** An incapacitating exacerbation or flare means one requiring bedrest or wheelchair use and treatment by a health care provider.
- 5003 Osteoarthritis (degenerative or hypertrophic arthritis):
Separately evaluate each major joint or group of minor joints affected with osteoarthritis based on limitation of motion, ankylosis, joint instability, *etc.*, under the appropriate diagnostic code, and combine that evaluation with an evaluation for pain under § 4.59 when appropriate, subject to the limitations of § 4.68.
- Note (1):** The diagnosis of osteoarthritis of any joint must be confirmed (one time only) by X-ray or other imaging procedure.
- Note (2):** *Generalized osteoarthritis.* If osteoarthritis is diagnosed on the basis of positive X-ray or other imaging procedure and positive physical findings in three or more joints (major joints, groups of minor joints, or both) during service or within 1 year following the date of separation from service, the condition will be considered to be generalized osteoarthritis and recognized as a systemic condition. Once generalized osteoarthritis has been established based on these criteria, consider all joints subsequently diagnosed with osteoarthritis to be part of the same condition.
- Note (3):** *Localized osteoarthritis.* Osteoarthritis diagnosed on the basis of positive X-ray or other imaging procedure and positive physical findings in fewer than three joints (major joints, groups of minor joints, or both) during service or within 1 year following the date of separation from service will be considered to be localized osteoarthritis rather than a systemic condition. With localized osteoarthritis, do not consider any joints subsequently diagnosed with osteoarthritis to be part of the same condition.
- 5004 Infectious arthritis (gonorrheal, pneumococcal, typhoid, syphilitic, streptococcal, *etc.*):
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| During and for 3 months following cessation of therapy for active infectious arthritis of the spine, the pelvis, or a major joint | 100 |
| During and for three months following cessation of therapy for active infectious arthritis not involving the spine, the pelvis, or a major joint and not limited to a single finger or toe | 40 |
| During and for three months following cessation of therapy for active infectious arthritis of a single finger or toe | 10 |
- Note:** Following the three-month period after cessation of therapy, separately evaluate chronic residuals, if any, of each joint affected with infectious arthritis, based on limitation of motion, ankylosis, joint instability, post-surgical residuals (such as arthroplasty), *etc.*, under the appropriate diagnostic code, and combine the evaluation for chronic residuals of each joint with an evaluation for pain under § 4.59 when appropriate, subject to the limitations of § 4.68.
- 5009 Other types of noninfectious inflammatory arthritis (including ankylosing spondylitis, Reiter's syndrome, psoriatic arthritis, arthritis associated with inflammatory bowel disease, and other seronegative types of arthritis):
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| Constant or near-constant debilitating signs and symptoms, due to a combination of inflammatory synovitis (pain, swelling, tenderness, warmth, and morning stiffness in and around joints), destruction of multiple joints, and extra-articular (other than joint) manifestations | 100 |
| Incapacitating exacerbations or flares with a total duration of at least 6 weeks during the past 12-month period, due either to inflammatory synovitis and destruction of multiple joints or to a combination of joint problems and extra-articular manifestations | 60 |
| Incapacitating exacerbations or flares with a total duration of at least 4 weeks but less than 6 weeks during the past 12-month period due to inflammatory synovitis, weakness, and fatigue | 40 |
| Incapacitating exacerbations or flares with a total duration of at least 2 weeks but less than 4 weeks during the past 12-month period due to inflammatory synovitis, weakness, and fatigue | 20 |
| Incapacitating exacerbations or flares with a total duration of at least 1 week but less than 2 weeks during the past 12-month period due to inflammatory synovitis, weakness, and fatigue | 10 |
- Note (1):** Evaluate based either on the evaluation criteria under diagnostic code 5009 or on the combined evaluation of chronic residuals of affected joints, whichever method results in a higher evaluation.
- Note (2):** When evaluating based on chronic joint residuals, evaluate each major joint or group of minor joints with arthritis based on limitation of motion, ankylosis, joint instability, *etc.*, under the appropriate diagnostic code, and combine each with an evaluation for pain under § 4.59 when appropriate.
- Note (3):** Separately evaluate the extra-articular manifestations of the arthritis under the appropriate diagnostic code(s), unless they have been used to support an evaluation under diagnostic code 5009. Extra-articular manifestations include such findings as fever, eye problems (such as conjunctivitis, iritis, uveitis), genitourinary or gynecologic problems (such as urethritis, cystitis, prostatitis, cervicitis, salpingitis, vulvovaginitis), and heart problems (such as pericarditis, aortic valvular disease, heart block).
- Note (4):** An incapacitating exacerbation or flare means one requiring bedrest or wheelchair use and treatment by a health care provider.
- 5010 Traumatic arthritis (secondary osteoarthritis):
Separately evaluate each major joint or group of minor joints with traumatic arthritis based on limitation of motion, joint instability, ankylosis, *etc.*, under the appropriate diagnostic code, and combine that evaluation with an evaluation for pain under § 4.59 when appropriate subject to the limitations of § 4.68.
- Note:** The diagnosis of traumatic arthritis of any joint must be confirmed (one time only) by X-ray or other imaging procedure.
- 5011 Caisson disease (residuals of decompression sickness or the bends):
Evaluate using the criteria under an appropriate diagnostic code based on the actual residuals, such as aseptic necrosis or delayed osteoarthritis of the shoulder or hip, or neurologic manifestations (such as weakness or paraplegia of lower extremities, vestibular dysfunction with vertigo, or paresthesias of the extremities).
- 5012 Malignant neoplasm of bone

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