

# Kono-S

Robert J. Kucejko, M.D., M.S., M.B.A. • Sachin Vaid, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.  
Dimitra Theodoropoulos, M.D.

On behalf of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Healthcare Economics Committee

## CURRENT PROCEDURAL TECHNOLOGY CODES: 44205 AND 44238

For a laparoscopic right hemicolectomy with Kono-S anastomosis, would you bill:

1. 44205 with modifier 22 for additional complexity involved with the handsewn anastomosis or
2. 44238, similar to 44205 but worth 100%

Answer: Option number 1 would be the best option with the 22 modifier for complexity. You would get paid for 44205 and may receive extra payment for the modifier. We would emphasize that any RVU-based should absolutely avoid the 44238 unlisted code of unlisted procedure because this will give minimal to zero relative value units.

With either code, it would be very advisable in the operative report to document that this anastomosis is a relatively new procedure that is recommended for improved outcomes, especially for a Crohn's disease ileocolonic resection.

In contrast, private surgeons with an experienced office that actively pursues collections might do better with the 44238 code and adequate/detailed documentation of the complexity and extra time needed for this anastomosis.

## DISCLAIMER

Your question is answered to the best of our ability using currently available legitimate resources. These include but are not limited to Current Procedural Technology (CPT)

Codes, International Classification of Diseases–Tenth Edition (ICD-10), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, and Diagnosis Related Groups, as well as common hospital billing practices.

## COMMON RESOURCES

- Current Procedural Terminology. CPT\* 2023 Professional Edition, pages 366–370.
- American Medical Association (AMA) Relative Value Unit Update Committee (RUC) Database, 2024, version 1.2.
- CMS National Correct Coding Initiative Edits: <https://www.cms.gov/national-correct-coding-initiative-ncci>
- AMA CPT: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt> (CPT codes and descriptions are © CPT 2024.
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- CMS Physician Fee Schedule: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/fee-schedules/physician>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ICD-10: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd-10-cm/index.html>
- American College of Surgeons Frequently Asked Questions About CPT Coding: <https://www.facs.org/for-medical-professionals/news-publications/news-and-articles/bulletin/2024/november-december-2024-volume-109-issue-10/frequently-asked-questions-about-cpt-coding/>

Submit coding and billing questions to: [dcr4codingcorner@gmail.com](mailto:dcr4codingcorner@gmail.com)

Abbreviation: RVU = relative value units

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