



# Reimbursement Guide

*Traumeel® Injection Solution  
for General Pain Management*

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## Table of Contents

- Introduction.....3
- Traumeel injection solution.....4
- Coding and payment.....4
  - Drug coding, coding clarification.....5
  - Billing instructions.....5
  - Self-pay patients.....6
- Coverage.....6
- Appendix A: Template Coding Clarification Letter.....7
- Disclaimers.....8

## Introduction

This Reimbursement Guide for MediNatura has been developed to help physicians obtain coding clarification for Traumeel injections when used for general pain management.

The Guide provides background information to help explain to payers why the injection solution might be an appropriate alternative to conventional injections for moderate to severe pain. The process for seeking coding clarification is outlined, and the proper coding for self-pay patients is discussed as well.

MediNatura has made every effort to ensure that the information in this Guide is suitable and appropriate for describing and coding the services rendered in the care and management of patients undergoing Traumeel injections. MediNatura has developed this Guide as a service to its customers in an effort to facilitate the appropriate and effective use of coding conventions. The contents of the Guide are intended to supplement knowledge of the coding and coverage of these injections already maintained by these providers. Ultimate responsibility for coding and billing lies with the provider of the services

While not all services or procedures are coded and included in this Guide, great care has been taken to ensure the suitability and accuracy of the codes and information provided. The codes are to be used to facilitate appropriate coding and are not to be construed as recommended guidelines in the establishment of policy, physician services or procedures, physician practice or standards of care.

Reimbursement support is provided by Comprehensive Reimbursement Solutions® (CRS). Please contact Bob Thompson at: 763.400.0987 or [Bob.Thompson@CompReimSol.com](mailto:Bob.Thompson@CompReimSol.com).

### Traumeel injection solution

Traumeel injection solution is a homeopathic drug indicated, as a mono-therapy, for the treatment of injuries, inflammatory and degenerative conditions of the musculoskeletal system and for the relief of associated symptoms such as pain. Unlike NSAIDs and corticosteroids, Traumeel injection solution is thought to enter the inflammation cascade well before the prostaglandin synthesis begins, thus modulating the inflammation as well as the pain associated with arthritis and other relevant conditions. The protective action of the prostaglandin synthesis remains intact and the healing and repair in joints continues.

Traumeel has an excellent safety profile with very rarely reported adverse effects, few contraindications and no known drug interactions. This makes Traumeel injection solution suitable for both acute and longer-term treatment, which can be safely combined with other treatments, but is effective as a mono-therapy as well.

The Traumeel injection solution is comprised of a fixed formulation of ingredients. The composition, including dilution, quantity and excipients, is shown below (per 2.2 ml ampule).

Ingredient Name	Potency	Quantity	Final Dilution
Aconitum napellus	2X	1.32 µl	5.22X
Arnica montana, radix	2X	2.20 µl	5.00X
Bellis perennis	2X	1.10 µl	5.30X
Belladonna	2X	2.20 µl	5.00X
Calendula officinalis	2X	2.20 µl	5.00X
Chamomilla	3X	2.20 µl	6.00X
Echinacea	2X	0.55 µl	5.60X
Echinacea purpurea	2X	0.55 µl	5.60X
Hamamelis virginiana	1X	0.22 µl	5.00X
Hepar sulphuris calcareum	6X	2.20 µl	9.00X
Hypericum perforatum	2X	0.66 µl	5.52X
Mercurius solubilis	6X	1.10 µl	9.30X
Millefolium	3X	2.20 µl	6.00X
Symphytum officinale	6X	2.20 µl	9.00X
Inactive Ingredients	Water for injection, Sodium chloride		

Approved homeopathic drugs are those with monographs listed in the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States (HPUS). The ingredients for the Traumeel injection solution have all been listed in the HPUS since 1991. This type of approval is recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for reimbursement purposes.

### Coding and payment

Because Traumeel injection solution represents a recent technology, payers may still be working on the appropriate coding. A discussion regarding the drug code is provided below.

### Drug coding, coding clarification

Drug codes, called J-codes, are permanent codes used to report injectable drugs that ordinarily cannot be self-administered. There are currently no existing J-codes for homeopathic injection solutions. When an existing drug code is unavailable, an unlisted J-code, with no specified price, must be used. An unlisted J-code that *may* be suitable for Traumeel injection solution is:

Drug Code	Code Description	CY2015 Payment
J3490	Unclassified drugs	Carrier priced

However, the use of code J3490 is *not specifically recommended* for homeopathic drugs by the Medicare Workgroup that creates J codes. Consequently, each third party payer, Medicare or private, must be asked for instructions on how to code and bill Traumeel injection solution, prior to its use.

To request clarification regarding the use of code J3490, for Traumeel injection solution, please review the template letter in Appendix A. The purpose of the letter is to provide all the information necessary for the payer, Medicare or private, to make a decision regarding the use of the code. Being a template, it will need to be modified to fit your actual situation and sent to the patient's payer. The process will need to be repeated for each of your patient's payers until all clarifications are obtained.

### Billing instructions

If a payer allows the use of a listed J-code for the Traumeel injection solution, the billing is performed similarly to injectable steroids. If an unlisted J-code is required, billing is performed differently.

Unlisted codes require additional paperwork on the part of the physician and manual review by the payer. Because unlisted codes have no set payment, the physician must provide additional information, usually by attaching the invoice. Since claims are submitted electronically, an indication is needed on the electronic claim stating that supporting documentation will be provided separately. To do this, providers can indicate "See attachment" in Item 19 of the CMS-1500 and submit the supporting documentation on paper, unless otherwise specified by the payer.

In addition to the invoice, a cover letter should be included identifying the claim and stating that having researched the current HCPCs II Manual, there is no specific J-code that adequately describes the drug being used. Therefore, following the instructions provided by their organization in the attached letter from \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ we have been asked to: for example, submit the unlisted J-code J3490 and provide pricing information.

### Self-pay patients

For self-pay patients, no part of the service is billable to the payer. This includes billing only the injection procedure, which is not separately billable from the drug.

### Coverage

Coverage is the decision of whether or not to include a procedure as a benefit under a health insurance plan. Be aware that inquiries regarding coding clarification may cause payers to question coverage. When this happens, please contact CRS before requesting a coverage determination. Without coverage, no part of the Traumeel injection procedure is billable.

## Appendix A: Template Coding Clarification Letter

**Date**

**Medical Director**

**Address**

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a licensed \_\_\_\_\_ practicing in your catchment area. As a \_\_\_\_\_ I often treat patients for moderate to severe pain.

I practice conservative medicine proceeding from less to more invasive/expensive treatments, based on the patient's condition. When treating moderate to severe pain through injections, I have used steroids and other indicated medications. However, I would like to add a homeopathic injection to this portion of the continuum of care. Traumeel injection solution is a homeopathic drug indicated as a mono-therapy, for the treatment of injuries, inflammatory and degenerative conditions of the musculoskeletal system and for the relief of associated symptoms such as pain. It has an excellent safety profile and its cost is similar to steroid injections.

Approved homeopathic drugs are those with monographs listed in the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States (HPUS). The ingredients for Traumeel injection solution are all listed in the HPUS. This type of approval is recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for reimbursement purposes.

My questions for you involve correct coding and billing. There is currently not an existing J-code for homeopathic injection solutions. An unlisted J-code that may be suitable is J3490, unclassified drugs. Is this the appropriate J-code for Traumeel injection solution, or you would like me to use another? If an unlisted code is required, I plan to bill electronically with the text "See attachment" in Item 19. The invoice for the drug would then be sent on paper with a cover letter linking it to the claim. Are these your preferred billing instructions?

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please call me at **(phone number)** or **(e-mail address)**. If I have not heard from you in two weeks, I will follow-up to discuss my request in further detail along with any questions you have.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_, MD

## **DISCLAIMERS**

MediNatura has authorized the completion of this Guide for the benefit of its customers. Readers of this Guide are advised that the contents of this publication are to be used as guidelines and are not to be construed as policies of MediNatura.

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