

ACEWM EDX SIG Forum Minutes

CSM Denver, CO

Friday February 14, 2020

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Hyatt Capitol Ballroom 4

Goal: Physical therapists are the providers of choice in electrodiagnosis

- I. CSM Schedule for PT EMGers
 - a. 2/13 Thursday
 - i. 7:00 am to 9:30 am
 - 1. ACEWM BOD meeting Hyatt Capitol Ballroom 4
 - ii. 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - 1. Integration of clinical exam, diagnostic testing and treatment Part 1: Cervical radiculopathy
 - 2. Dimi, Rick and Mark
 - 3. Hyatt Centennial E
 - iii. 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 - 1. Integration of clinical exam, diagnostic testing and treatment Part 2: Neuropathies of the upper limb
 - 2. Dimi, Rick and Mark
 - 3. Hyatt Centennial E
 - b. 2/14 Friday
 - i. 8:00 am to 10:00 am
 - 1. UE nerve pathology localizing the lesion for optimal management
 - 2. Mohini and Elaine
 - 3. Hyatt Centennial E
 - ii. 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - 1. Demystifying the evaluation of brachial plexus to enhance patient treatment and outcomes
 - 2. David, Greg and Scott
 - 3. Hyatt Capitol Ballroom 5,6,7
 - iii. 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm
 - 1. EDX SIG Council meeting
 - 2. Hyatt Capitol Ballroom 4
 - iv. 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 - 1. EDX SIG Forum
 - 2. Hyatt Capitol Ballroom 4
 - v. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

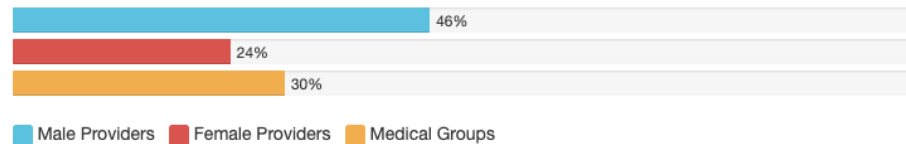
1. ACEWM Social and Business Meeting
 2. Hyatt Capitol Ballroom 5,6,7
- c. 2/15 Saturday
- i. 8:00 am to 10:00 am
 1. ACEWM Platform Session
 2. Greg
 3. Hyatt Centennial E
 - ii. 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 1. NMSUS Imaging
 2. Mohini
 3. Hyatt Centennial E
- II. ENMG Symposium March 27-28, 2020
- a. RMUOHP in Provo, UT
 - b. Annual EDX SIG General Membership Meeting
 - i. Saturday March 28
 - ii. 12 pm to 4 pm
- III. Attendance: Elaine Armantrout, Beshoy Ghaly, Ryan Boggs, Greg Ernst, Scott Shaffer, Darin White, Dustin Arthur, Ross Stuart, Olajide Kolawole, Braden Plowman, Dimitrio Kostopolos, Elizabeth Painter, David Greathouse, Bill Bracewell, John Eddy, Bart McDonald
- IV. EDX SIG Officers 2020 (see below list)
- V. Approval of minutes 1/24/19 (posted below today's agenda): Approved
- VI. Chair's report: Elaine (see ACEWM Business meeting agenda)
- VII. Treasurer's report: Rick
- a. Estimated ~\$73K
 - b. Should we invest? Now in a money market fund.
 - i. Yes
 - ii. Motion before the General Membership meeting at EMNG Symposium next month
 - iii. 1/3 to 1/4 held for Emergency Fund recommendation
 - iv. John Eddy and Braden Plowman volunteered for the Finance Committee with Rick McKibben
 - v. Details of investing such as amount for Emergency Fund, what types of investment vehicles to be determined by the Finance Committee
 - c. Should we start collecting voluntary annual membership dues expressly for the EDX SIG?
 - i. Yes, now is the time to increase our coffers
 - ii. Motion before the General Membership meeting at ENMG Symposium next month
 - iii. Suggested annual dues amount range: \$50 to \$200
 - iv. What could be the value for EDX SIG members?

1. Protecting practice
 2. Community of PT EMGers
 3. Offer template for lab credentialing, marketing materials, patient info pamphlet
 4. Peer-to-peer reviews
 5. Clinical rounds via group chat
- VIII. Sponsorship for EDX SIG and ACEWM
- a. Website, newsletter, CSM booth and EDX Forum
 - b. Sponsorship Form available
 - c. Potential Sponsor List
 - i. Cadwell: John Eddy will contact them
 - ii. Rochester Electromedical
 - iii. Ambu
 - iv. The Electrode Store
 - v. Jari Electrode Store
- IX. Ask at ENMG Symposium
- a. How many members are PTPP and bill directly?
 - b. How many use Cadwell equipment?
- X. Nominations for EDX SIG Officer Positions now open: Nancy
- a. Open 1/15/20 to 4/30/20
 - b. Email voting May 2020
 - c. Two-year term starts July 1st
 - d. Contact Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Mansell, PT, DPT
nancy.s.mansell@gmail.com to nominate yourself or another member
 - e. Chair Position
 - i. Preside at all meetings of the EDX SIG
 - ii. Submit an annual report to the EDX SIG and the Academy
 - iii. Attend the EDX SIG General Membership meeting and the EMG Forum at Combined Sections Meeting
 - iv. Correspond on issues regarding clinical electrophysiologic physical therapy with external groups
 - v. Work with the Association staff regarding clinical electrophysiologic physical therapy issues
 - vi. De facto EDX SIG Committee member except Nominating Committee.
 - vii. Member of the Academy Board of Directors; abide by the duties of Academy Board of Directors
 - f. Administrative Officer Position
 - i. Record the minutes of all EDX SIG meetings
 - ii. Submit the EDX SIG Business meeting minutes to members and to the Academy within 30 calendar days
 - iii. Maintain the EDX SIG list serve
 - iv. Update EDX member contact list

- v. Serve as the EDX SIG historian
- g. Nominating Committee Chair Position
 - i. Non-voting Council member
 - ii. Shall appoint at least one other Nominating Committee member
 - iii. Manage EDX SIG election of officers
 - iv. Present the open officer positions electronically to the EDX SIG membership
 - 1. Post on the Academy's website by January 15th of each year
 - 2. Will include a request for members to propose themselves or another member to be a candidate for the offices for which an election is held
 - v. Prepare a final slate of one or more nominees for each office and position for which an election will be held to be distributed electronically to the EDX SIG membership and posted on the Academy's website by April 30th of each year
 - vi. Post the names of the winners of the elections electronically to the EDX SIG membership and posted on the Academy's website by June 1st of each year
- XI. Goal: All PT EMGers are EDX SIG members: John
 - a. Eight new ECSers this year; sent email congrats and invitation letters
 - b. Total 192 ECS
 - c. ~70 EDX SIG members
 - d. How to get to 100% membership?
 - i. ACEWM Executive Director, Nichole Walleen to change the sign up
 - ii. All ACEWM members are automatically members of all five SIGs
 - iii. Members will need to actively Opt-Out of a SIG
 - iv. Nichole will be able to keep an updated contact list for each SIG
- XII. Communications: John and Elaine
 - a. Email EDX SIG private user group changing from Yahoo: TBD
 - b. APTA HUB Communities page still working, but is cumbersome
 - c. ACEWM Website
 - i. Members only page for EDX SIG
 - ii. EDX SIG can store essential documents on the Members Only page
 - 1. Minutes
 - 2. Resources
- XIII. Taxonomy Definition Update Request accepted by CMS National Plan & Provider Enumeration System/NPPES
 - a. APTA asked us to provide the definition:
 - i. Electrophysiology, Clinical Taxonomy Code 2251E1300X
 - ii. Medicare Specialty Code: 65 Physical Therapist in private practice
 - b. https://npidb.org/doctors/respiratory_developmental_rehabilitative/electrophysiology-clinical_2251e1300x/

Electrophysiology, Clinical - 2251E1300X

A licensed physical therapist, including but not limited to an individual who is a Board Certified Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic Physical Therapy, who has demonstrated specialized knowledge and skill in electrophysiologic examinations and evaluations and encompasses both the professional and technical components of the observation, recording, analysis, and interpretation of bioelectric muscle and nerve potentials, detected by means of surface or needle electrodes, for the purpose of evaluating the integrity of the neuromuscular system. Electrophysiologic evaluations include, but are not limited to, electrodiagnostic testing, which includes clinical needle electromyography, motor and sensory nerve conduction studies, and other evoked potential procedures.



- c. https://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/Practice/ElectrophysiologicExaminationEvaluation.pdf
- d. <http://www.abpts.org/Certification/ClinicalElectrophysiology/>
- XIV. Medicare 2020 Physician Fee Schedule (see tables below)
 - a. NCS down ~\$3 to \$5
 - i. 2019 down ~\$1 to \$5
 - ii. 2018 down ~\$1 to \$9
 - b. EMG with NCS up ~\$1.50 to \$3
 - i. 2019 up ~\$1 to \$3
 - ii. 2018 up ~\$3 to \$6
- XV. AANEM quite lately
- XVI. Anthology of PT EDX Practice by Elaine Armantrout, PT, DSc
 - a. Posted soon on ACEWM Website members only page
 - b. PT Journal citations
 - c. Scope of practice
 - d. Training
 - e. Organizations
 - f. Medicare battles
 - g. Threats
- XVII. 2021 CSM Orlando, FL Education and Platform/Poster topics due in a few weeks
- XVIII. Open Floor
- XIX. Adjournment

EDX SIG Officers 2020

Chair

Elaine Armantrout, PT, DSc
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic Physical Therapy
armantrout@cypresslabspllc.com
Term expires 07/01/2020

Vice-Chair

Leon Romero, PT, MSPT, DSc
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic Physical Therapy
rehab@physiopro.com
Term expires 07/01/2021

Administrative Officer

John Lugo, PT, MSPT, MS
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic Physical Therapy
jlugo1977@aol.com
Term expires 07/01/2020

Financial Officer

Rick McKibben, PT, DSc
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic Physical Therapy
rmckibben@bellsouth.net
Term expires 07/01/2021

At-Large Officer

Mohini Rawat, PT, DPT, MS
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic and Orthopedic Physical Therapy
Registered in Musculoskeletal sonography (RMSK) with added MSK soft tissue Point-of-Care certificate
mohinirawat@gmail.com
Term expires 07/01/2021

Nominating Committee Chair

Nancy Mansell, PT, DPT
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Clinical Electrophysiologic and Orthopedic Physical Therapy
nancy.s.mansell@gmail.com
Term expires 07/01/2020

Minutes

EDX SIG Forum Meeting Minutes
Marriott Marque Capitol Hill Room
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Thursday, January 24, 2019
Submitted by John Lugo

- I. Attendance:
 - a. Elaine Armantrout, John Lugo, Rick Reed, Dimitrios Kostopoulos, Art Nitz, Bob Sellin, Greg Ernst, Elizabeth Painter, Mohini Rawat, David Greathouse, John Halle, Mark Brooks, Margaret Brooks, Karen Gibbs, Rinku Kuril, Scott Shaffer, Ola Kolawole, Scott McCauley, Ryan Boggs, Rick McKibben, Wieqing Ge
- II. Minutes EDX SIG Forum 2/22/18 were passed
- III. Goal and Objectives of EDX SIG were reviewed and accepted:
 - a. GOAL:
 - i. Physical therapists are the provider of choice in electrodiagnosis
 - b. OBJECTIVES:
 - i. All Physical Therapists recognize the indication for and value of EDX and can assimilate data from a report to assist in patient evaluation and management
 - ii. Physical therapists practicing EDX demonstrate the best adherence to quality measures of any discipline
 - iii. All Physical therapists practicing EDX are Board Certified in Clinical Electrophysiologic Physical Therapy/ECS
 - iv. All Physical therapists practicing EDX are APTA and Academy Members
 - v. Physical therapist education includes Fellowship and Residency programs in EDX
 - vi. Physical therapists are contributing to clinical research and CPGs in EDX
- IV. Schedule for 2019 was reviewed. All EDX SIG members were encouraged to attend following events:
 - a. CSM Washington, DC
 - i. EDX SIG Forum
 1. Thursday January 24, 2019
 2. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
 3. Marriott Marquis Capitol Hill Room
 - ii. *Upper Extremity Peripheral Nerve Injury and Management*
 1. 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 2. Marriott Marquis Liberty Salon L Room
 3. Hand Section: Linda Klein, OTR
 - iii. Open Hearing on Wound Management Petition for Specialization. ACEWM president Karen Gibbs spoke on the promising prospects for Wound

Management Specialization and requested attendance of all academy members to help show support.

1. Thursday January 24, 2019
2. 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
3. Convention Center 143B
- iv. *Decoding the Shoulder Problem: Neural Vs. Non-neural Pathology* by Mark Brooks, PT, DSc, Rick McKibben PT, DSc and Mohini Rawat, PT, DPT, MS
 1. Friday January 25, 2019
 2. 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 3. Marriott Marquis Liberty Salon O Room
- v. *The NCS/EMG Study Results Are In: Now What?* by Elaine Armantrout, PT, DSc and Rick McKibben, PT, DSc
 1. Friday January 25, 2019
 2. 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 3. Marriott Marquis Chinatown Room
- vi. ACEWM Business meeting
 1. Friday January 25, 2019
 2. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 3. Marriott Marquis Capitol Hill Room
- vii. *ACEWM Platform Session*
 1. Saturday January 26, 2019
 2. 8:00 am to 10:00 am
 3. Marriott Marquis Liberty Salon O Room
- viii. *Personalized Physical Therapy: The Time Is Now* by Eric Green, MD, PhD, Richard Shields, PT, PhD, FAPTA and Steven L Wolf, PT, PhD, FAPTA
 1. Saturday January 26, 2019
 2. 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 3. Convention Center Ballroom 202AB
- b. ENMG Symposium Provo, UT April 12-13, 2019
 - i. Thursday April 11, 2019 Item Writing Workshop
 1. Elizabeth Painter from SACE stated the urgent need for more questions for the upcoming MOSC examinations to be implemented in 2023. She encouraged all EDX SIG members with ECS certification to attend the item writing workshop to help with the item writing process. Questions were needed in the areas of basic sciences and professional behavior.
 - ii. Friday April 12, 2019
 1. Breakout sessions
 - a. Frank Underwood on Certification
 - b. Greg Ernst on Lab Credentialing
 - c. Rick McKibben on Fraud, Abuse and Waste prevention
 - iii. Saturday April 13, 2019

1. Elaine Armantrout EDX SIG General Business meeting
- V. Nominations for EDX SIG Officer Positions now open. Current interim officers were encouraged to run for official officer positions.
- a. Open 1/15/19-4/30/19
 - b. Email voting May 2019
 - c. Vice-Chair
 - i. Finance Committee member
 - ii. Assume the duties of the Chair if the Chair is absent or unable to serve
 - iii. Reply to inquiries from interested new members or to EDX SIG members seeking assistance/advice
 - iv. Monitor the annual officer elections
 - d. Financial Officer
 - i. Chair the Finance Committee
 - ii. Record EDX SIG member dues payments
 - iii. Request the Academy distribute a payment for services and/or reimbursement from the EDX SIG treasury on behalf of the Council
 - iv. Submit a Profit/Loss statement to the Council and to the Academy Treasurer by January 31st of each year
 - e. At-Large Officer
 - i. Finance Committee member
 - ii. Be responsible for the EDX SIG section of the Academy's web site
 - f. Contact Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Mansell, PT, DPT
nancy.s.mansell@gmail.com to nominate yourself or another member
- VI. WY Chapter President Jamie Childs Everett, PT
- a. **FaceTime 10:30 am**
 - b. WY Chapter and Kathy Blair, PT, DPT presented information in support of PT NCS/EMG to the WY PT Licensing Board last October
 - c. The Board decided that NCS/EMG is within PT scope of practice
 - d. Bill to update direct access:
 - i. Threatened by the state medical association to restrict PTs from doing NCS/EMG
 - ii. Successful House floor amendment requiring referral from neurologist or psychiatrist 1/17/19
 - iii. WPTA working now on the Senate side to change this referral requirement amendment to MD, DO, PA, ARNP
 - e. The EDX SIG members suggested the following talking points and actions to help combat the proposed restriction
 - i. PTs performing EDX do not provide a diagnosis. The patient is sent back to the referring MD with the EDX report done by a PT so the MD can use the report to establish the diagnosis.
 - ii. The overutilization of EDX by PTs is lower than compared to other providers according to publicly available statistics.

- iii. Seek out alliances with physicians who routinely refer patients to PTs for EDX, such as hand surgeons.
 - iv. No diagnostic test solely establishes a medical diagnosis.
 - v. The financial motivation of those who sponsored the initial bill should be questioned.
 - vi. The board certification process and specialization of PTs who perform EDX is more rigorous than the ones of other providers.
 - vii. An offensive strategy was suggested by contacting the local state chapter of APTA to support the ability of PTs to perform EDX.
- VII. ACEWM Membership Chair Wieqing Ge addressed the group seeking assistance to work with him to recruit people to join the academy. Those available to help were urged to contact him at wge@ysu.edu
- VIII. Summary of 2018
 - a. Medicare Victory
 - i. October 9, 2018, CMS published a decision to recognize physical therapists' ability to furnish the global and professional components for EMG, NCS and SEP diagnostic services without physician supervision
 - ii. This is a national policy and all Medicare Administrator Contractors must make this happen
 - iii. EDX SIG members were urged to check their specific LCD (Local Coverage Determination) to check for compliance with recently published CMS decision
 - b. APTA HOD Update on Position Statement Electrophysiologic Examination and Evaluation now includes electrodiagnostic testing terminology
 - c. American Congress of Electroneuromyography (ACE) dissolved April 2018
 - i. Residual funds of ACE were transferred into the budget of the EDX SIG
 - ii. Members asked for the transfer of documents that were published on the ACE website onto the ACEWM website
- IX. Payment and Regulatory issues
 - a. AZ Chapter, APTA and EDX SIG are working with Zane Larson on Medicaid MCO HealthChoice and UHC Commercial denial of payments
 - b. APTA is contacting UHC Commercial to solve the contract problem (to not force PTs to contract with Optum)
 - c. Leon Romero
 - i. One Call Medical denying credentialing for PTs
 - ii. Doing more social media to improve public awareness of PT EMG credentials
- X. Reimbursement Medicare 2019
 - a. NCS went down \$1.10 to \$4.82
 - b. EMG went up \$1.17 to \$2.99
 - c. Do to primarily changes in the Technical component practice expenses
- XI. Physician Residency EDX training
 - a. 400 residencies survey response rate

- i. 65% Neurology
 - ii. 35% Psychiatry
 - b. Average training time for EDX
 - i. Neurology
 - 1. 8.4 weeks/range 0-52 weeks
 - 2. 0 weeks required for Residency
 - ii. Psychiatry
 - 1. 21.3 weeks/range 8-48 weeks
 - 2. Six months required for Residency
 - c. Performance of needle EMG was observational only in 8% of the programs
 - d. Conclusion
 - i. Most get their specialization in a Fellowship program
 - ii. Need to standardize minimum requirement training in Residency programs; White paper coming soon
 - iii. Recommended ABEM board certification and laboratory credentialing to demonstrate knowledge in EDX
- XII. Self-study program U Michigan
 - a. A Self-Study Curriculum in Electromyography and Nerve Conduction Studies for Residents and Fellows
 - b. <https://www.mededportal.org/publication/10581/>
- XIII. 2020 CSM Denver, CO February 12-15
 - a. Presentation ideas:
 - i. Only need the idea and abstract
 - ii. The following attendees expressed interest in submitting proposals
 - 1. Scott Schaffer
 - 2. Scott McCauley
 - 3. Mark Brooks
 - 4. Dimitrios Kostopoulos
 - 5. Elaine Armantrout
 - 6. Greg Ernst
 - 7. Ryan Boggs
 - 8. Art Nitz
 - 9. John Halle
 - b. TED Talks for non-EMG'ers possibility to join with another Section for 2020 CSM
 - c. Ideas from last year:
 - i. ALS
 - ii. Lumbar radiculopathy
 - iii. Fine wire insertion techniques
 - d. Maybe set up a Task Force to implement CSM presentation submissions?
 - e. Education presentation
 - i. http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/National_Conferences/CSM/Submissions/CSMCallForProposals.pdf

- ii. Deadline March 20, 2019
<http://www.apta.org/CSM/Submissions/>
 - f. Research/Case Reports
 - a. Platforms
 - b. Posters
 - 2. http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/National_Conferences/CSM/Submissions/CSM_CallForAbstracts.pdf
 - 3. Deadline July 12, 2019
- XIV. Open floor
 - a. From last year:
 - i. When EDX SIG website is up and running: link PT EMG practices websites
 - ii. No one had any recommendations for a good billing company
 - iii. How to help get state practice acts with appropriate NCS/EMG language
 - iv. Western PA: ACO's are cutting out PTPP, no solutions yet
 - b. New issues
 - i. David Greathouse discussed the sending out of the IRB to study the use of the GEHS CTS grading scale.
 - c. New ideas
- XV. Adjourn

2020 Medicare PFS Changes

Reimbursement Summary:

NCS down by \$3 to \$5 (2019 down \$1 to \$5 and since 2018 down \$1 to \$9)

EMG with NCS up by \$1.50 to \$3 (2019 up \$1 to \$3 and since 2018 up \$3 to \$6)

CPT	Descriptor	2019	2020	RVU Change	\$2019	\$2020	\$ Change	\$2018
95907	1-2 nerves	2.72	2.71	0%	98.47	98.11	-\$0.36	-\$2.05
95908	3-4 nerves	3.52	3.44	-2%	127.48	124.58	-\$2.90	-\$2.74
95909	5-6 nerves	4.20	4.12	-2%	152.12	149.22	-\$2.90	-\$3.07
95910	7-8 nerves	5.51	5.42	-2%	199.53	196.27	-\$3.26	-\$4.82
95911	9-10 nerves	6.62	6.49	-2%	239.70	234.99	-\$4.71	-\$4.06
95912	11-12 nerves	7.44	7.43	0%	269.26	268.90	-\$0.36	-\$1.15
95913	13 or more nerves	8.59	8.60	0%	310.86	311.22	\$0.36	-\$1.10
95885	EMG with NCS limited	1.73	1.77	2%	62.82	64.27	\$1.45	\$1.87
95886	EMG with NCS complex	2.68	2.75	3%	97.15	100.06	\$2.91	\$2.99
95887	EMG with NCS non-extremity	2.33	2.40	3%	84.46	86.99	\$2.53	\$1.17
95860	EMG without NCS one extremity	3.43	3.40	-1%	124.40	123.31	-\$1.09	-\$2.38
95861	EMG without NCS two extremities	4.90	4.87	-1%	177.53	176.44	-\$1.09	-\$1.97
95863	EMG without NCS three extremities	6.15	6.02	-2%	222.94	218.23	-\$4.71	-\$6.24
95864	EMG without NCS four extremities	7.07	7.07	0%	256.34	256.34	\$0.00	\$0.00
95867	EMG without NCS Cranial unilateral	3.00	3.05	2%	108.76	110.57	\$1.81	\$4.08
96868	EMG without NCS Cranial bilateral	3.93	4.00	2%	142.45	144.99	\$2.53	\$3.04
95869	EMG without NCS Thoracic paraspinals	2.67	2.71	1%	97.02	98.47	\$1.45	\$0.47
95870	EMG without NCS Other	2.58	2.56	-1%	93.74	93.01	-\$0.73	-\$4.22
95925	SSEP Upper extremities	3.73	3.95	6%	135.49	143.48	\$7.99	-\$0.93
95926	SSEP Lower extremities	3.61	3.76	4%	131.12	136.57	\$5.44	-\$2.74
95927	SSEP Trunk or Head	3.74	3.75	0%	135.82	136.18	\$0.36	-\$4.53
95933	Blink reflex	2.30	2.33	1%	83.41	84.50	\$1.09	\$2.97

95937	NMJ Test Repetitive Stimulation	2.48	2.66	7%	89.95	96.48	\$6.53	\$5.50
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