

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1054

DATE: MAY 1, 2021

PROJECT RP0550

The following classification changes will be effected by this Notice of Changes:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
<b>SCHEME:</b>		
Titles Changed:	A61B	17/56, 17/58, 17/68, 17/7059, 17/8004, 17/8023, 17/8047, 17/8071, 17/8085, 17/809, 17/86, 17/8625, 17/8802, 17/8805, 17/8833, 17/8836, 2017/8838, 17/8861, 17/8863, 17/8866
<b>DEFINITIONS:</b>		
Definitions New:	A61B	17/846, 17/8605, 17/88
Definitions Modified:	A61B	17/1615, 17/58, 17/68, 17/7059, 17/80, 17/8004, 17/8009, 17/8023, 17/8028, 17/8047, 17/86, 17/8625, 17/865, 17/8665, 17/8802, 17/8805, 17/8825, 17/8833, 17/885, 17/8855, 17/8861, 17/8863, 17/8866

No other subclasses/groups are impacted by this Notice of Changes.

This Notice of Changes includes the following [Check the ones included]:

1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

- A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)
- B. New, Modified or Deleted Warning(s)
- C. New, Modified or Deleted Note(s)
- D. New, Modified or Deleted Guidance Heading(s)

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. New or Modified Definitions (Full definition template)
- B. Modified or Deleted Definitions (Definitions Quick Fix)

3.  REVISION CONCORDANCE LIST (RCL)

4.  CHANGES TO THE CPC-TO-IPC CONCORDANCE LIST (CICL)

5.  CHANGES TO THE CROSS-REFERENCE LIST (CRL)

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## 1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)**SUBCLASS A61B - DIAGNOSIS; SURGERY; IDENTIFICATION**

<b><u>Type*</u></b>	<b><u>Symbol</u></b>	<b><u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u></b>	<b><u>Title (new or modified)</u></b> <b><u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u></b>	<b><u>Transferred to#</u></b>
M	A61B 17/56	1	Surgical instruments or methods for treatment of bones or joints; Devices specially adapted therefor	
M	A61B 17/58	2	for osteosynthesis, e.g. bone plates, screws {, setting implements} or the like (A61B 17/14, A61B 17/16 take precedence)	
M	A61B 17/68	3	Internal fixation devices{, including fasteners and spinal fixators, even if a part thereof projects from the skin (bone staples A61B 17/0642)}	
U	A61B 17/70	4	Spinal positioners or stabilisers {; Bone stabilisers comprising fluid filler in an implant}	
M	A61B17/7059	5	{Cortical plates (A61B 17/7007, A61B 17/7058 take precedence)}	
U	A61B 17/80	4	Cortical plates {, i.e. bone plates; Instruments for holding or positioning cortical plates, or for compressing bones attached to cortical plates}	
M	A61B 17/8004	5	{ with means for distracting or compressing the bone or bones}	
U	A61B 17/8009	6	{the plate having a ratchet}	
M	A61B 17/8023	5	{Variable length plates adjustable in both directions}	
M	A61B 17/8047	6	{ wherein the additional element surrounds the screw head in the plate hole (A61B 17/8052 takes precedence)}	
U	A61B 17/8061	5	{specially adapted for particular bones (A61B 17/70 and A61B 17/74 take precedence)}	
M	A61B 17/8071	6	{for the jaw}	
M	A61B 17/8085	5	{ with pliable or malleable elements or having a mesh-like structure, e.g. small strips (A61B 17/8071, A61B 17/8076 take precedence)}	
M	A61B 17/809	5	{ with bone-penetrating elements, e.g. blades or prongs (bone staples A61B 17/0642; intramedullary nails with a plate at an end A61B 17/7233)}	
U	A61B 17/846	5	{Nails or pins, i.e. anchors without movable parts, holding by friction only, with or without structured surface (A61B 17/72, A61B 17/86 take precedence)}	

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<b>Type*</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</b>	<b>Title (new or modified) “CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</b>	<b>Transferred to#</b>
M	A61B 17/86	5	Pins or screws {or threaded wires; nuts therefor (A61B 17/72 take precedence)}	
M	A61B 17/8625	6	{Shanks, i.e. parts contacting bone tissue}	
U	A61B 17/88	3	{Osteosynthesis instruments;} Methods or means for implanting or extracting internal {or external} fixation devices {(A61B 17/7074 takes precedence)}	
M	A61B 17/8802	4	{Equipment for handling bone cement or other fluid fillers}	
M	A61B 17/8805	5	{for introducing fluid filler into bone or extracting it (A61B 17/7097, A61B 17/8833 take precedence)}	
U	A61B 17/8825	6	{characterised by syringe details (A61B 17/8822, A61B 17/8827 take precedence)}	
M	A61B 17/8833	5	{Osteosynthesis tools specially adapted for handling bone cement or fluid fillers; Means for supplying bone cement or fluid fillers to introducing tools, e.g. cartridge handling means}	
M	A61B 17/8836	6	{for heating, cooling or curing of bone cement or fluid fillers}	
M	A61B 2017/8838	6	{for mixing bone cement or fluid fillers}	
M	A61B 17/8861	4	{Apparatus for manipulating flexible wires or straps (devices for inserting Kirschner wires A61B 17/1697)}	
M	A61B 17/8863	4	{Apparatus for shaping or cutting osteosynthesis equipment by medical personnel}	
M	A61B 17/8866	4	{for gripping or pushing bones, e.g. approximators (joint distractors A61B 17/025)}	

\*N = new entries where reclassification into entries is involved; C = entries with modified file scope where reclassification of documents from the entries is involved; Q = new entries which are firstly populated with documents via administrative transfers from deleted (D) entries. Afterwards, the transferred documents into the Q entry will either stay or be moved to more appropriate entries, as determined by intellectual reclassification; T= existing entries with enlarged file scope, which receive documents from C or D entries, e.g. when a limiting reference is removed from the entry title; M = entries with no change to the file scope (no reclassification); D = deleted entries; F = frozen entries will be deleted once reclassification of documents from the entries is completed; U = entries that are unchanged.

## NOTES:

- \*\*No {curly brackets} are used for titles in CPC only subclasses, e.g. C12Y, A23Y; 2000 series symbol titles of groups found at the end of schemes (orthogonal codes); or the Y section titles. The {curly brackets} are used for 2000 series symbol titles found interspersed throughout the main trunk schemes (breakdown codes).
- U groups: it is obligatory to display the required “anchor” symbol (U group), i.e. the entry immediately preceding a new group or an array of new groups to be created (in case new groups are not clearly subgroups of C-type groups). Always include the symbol, indent level and title of the U group in the table above.
- All entry types should be included in the scheme changes table above for better understanding of the overall scheme change picture. Symbol, indent level, and title are required for all types.
- “Transferred to” column must be completed for all C, D, F, and Q type entries. F groups will be deleted once reclassification is completed.

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- When multiple symbols are included in the “Transferred to” column, avoid using ranges of symbols in order to be as precise as possible.
- For administrative transfer of documents, the following text should be used: “< administrative transfer to XX>”, “<administrative transfer to XX and YY simultaneously>”, or “<administrative transfer to XX, YY, ...and ZZ simultaneously>” when administrative transfer of the same documents is to more than one place.
- Administrative transfer to main trunk groups is assumed to be the source allocation type, unless otherwise indicated.
- Administrative transfer to 2000/Y series groups is assumed to be “additional information”.
- If needed, instructions for allocation type should be indicated within the angle brackets using the abbreviations “ADD” or “INV”: <administrative transfer to XX ADD> , <administrative transfer to XX INV>, or < administrative transfer to XX ADD, YY INV, ... and ZZ ADD simultaneously>.
- In certain situations, the “D” entries of 2000-series or Y-series groups may not require a destination (“Transferred to”) symbol, however it is required to specify “<no transfer>” in the “Transferred to” column for such cases.
- For finalisation projects, the deleted “F” symbols should have <no transfer> in the “Transferred to” column.
- For more details about the types of scheme change, see CPC Guide.

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Insert the following new definitions.

## 2. A. DEFINITIONS (New)

### A61B 17/846

#### References

#### Limiting references

*This place does not cover:*

Intramedullary devices	<a href="#">A61B 17/72</a>
Threaded wires, pins or screws	<a href="#">A61B 17/86</a>

#### Informative references

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Nails, staples	<a href="#">F16B 15/00</a>
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### A61B 17/8605

#### References

#### Application-oriented references

*Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:*

Spinal positioners or stabilisers with screws or hooks combined with longitudinal elements which do not contact vertebrae	<a href="#">A61B 17/7001</a>
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### A61B 17/88

#### References

#### Limiting references

*This place does not cover:*

Tools specially adapted for spinal fixation operations	<a href="#">A61B 17/7074</a>
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**Informative references**

Informative references

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Special tools or methods for implanting or extracting artificial joints, accessories, bone grafts or substitutes, or particular adaptations therefor	<a href="#">A61F 2/46</a>
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## 2. A. DEFINITIONS (Modified)

### A61B17/1615

#### Definition statement

Delete: From the existing "Definition statement" section the number shown below.  
(US2002107521)

Insert: The following new "References/Informative references" section.

#### References

#### Informative references

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Hand-held or like portable drilling machines	<a href="#">B23B 45/00</a>
--	----------------------------

### A61B17/7059

Insert: The following new "Informative references" section.

#### Informative references

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Construction aspects of cortical plates	<a href="#">A61B17/80</a>
Plates specially adapted for the ribs or sternum	<a href="#">A61B17/8076</a>

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## A61B 17/80

Insert: The following new "Application-oriented references" section.

### Application-oriented references

*Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:*

Cortical plates used as spinal positioners or stabilisers	<a href="#">A61B 17/7059</a>
---	------------------------------

Insert: The following new "Special rules of classification" section.

### Special rules of classification

Cortical plates including a ratchet are classified in [A61B17/8009](#) even when the cortical plate is not explicitly used for compression or distraction of the bones.

## A61B17/8004

### Definition statement

Replace: The first paragraph in the existing "Definition statement" section with the following updated paragraph.

Bones or fragments of bone must be compressed against each other in this group. The definition does not refer to plates that simply press against the surface of the bone when their screws are tightened, something ordinary cortical bone plates do and as a result of which such plates are occasionally called "compression plates".

Replace: The third paragraph in the existing "Definition statement" section with the following updated paragraph.

Example of a plate classified here because it has a property that can be used to achieve compression/distraction, e.g. made of shape memory or, as in this case, plastically deformable to clamp bone fragments together (the deformed outline is shown dashed)



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Replace: The fourth paragraph in the existing "Definition statement" section with the following updated paragraph.

It would be difficult to draw a dividing line between distraction/compression plates and other subcutaneous distraction/compression devices mounted on the bone surface, so "plate" has been generously interpreted, e.g. this is classified in [A61B17/8004](#):

### **Limiting references**

Delete: The entire existing "Limiting references" section.

Insert: The following new "Informative references" section.

### **Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Alignment, compression or distraction mechanisms with parts external to the body, including those which are mainly implanted but have percutaneous means of operation	<a href="#">A61B17/663</a>
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Insert: The following new "Special rules of classification" section.

### **Special rules of classification**

Plates which allow compression or distraction due to relative movement of parts of these plates, e.g. dynamic plates or static compression plates, and which are not "locked in" by a device such as a ratchet, should be classified also in [A61B17/8023](#).

## **A61B17/8009**

### **Definition statement**

Replace: The first paragraph in the existing "Definition statement" section with the following updated paragraph.

Thanks to the ratchet the plate halves can only move relative to each other in one direction, so due to movement in the implanted state either compression or distraction of the bone will develop.

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## A61B17/8023

### Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

#### Informative references

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Plates having a ratchet	<a href="#">A61B17/8009</a>
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## A61B17/8028

### Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

#### Informative references

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Washers, i.e. pads placed around screws or bolts	<a href="#">A61B17/8695</a>
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## A61B17/8047

### Limiting references

Delete: The following symbol from the existing “Limiting references” table.

[A61B 17/80](#)

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Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Washers, i.e. pads placed around screws or bolts	<a href="#">A61B17/8695</a>
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**A61B17/86**

**Limiting references**

Delete: The following four existing references from the “Limiting references” table.

Threaded fasteners for joining parts of an osteosynthetic fixator together	<a href="#">A61B 17/60</a> , <a href="#">A61B 17/70</a>
Unthreaded osteosynthesis pins	<a href="#">A61B 17/68</a>
Devices for the head, neck or trochanter of the femur	<a href="#">A61B 17/74</a>
Implants for the fusion of spinal bodies	<a href="#">A61F 2/4455</a>

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Pins for external fixators	<a href="#">A61B17/60</a>
Devices for the head, neck or trochanter of the femur	<a href="#">A61B17/74</a>
Fasteners using screw-thread	<a href="#">F16B25/00</a> – <a href="#">F16B35/00</a>

**A61B17/8625**

**Informative references**

Delete: The existing “Informative references section.

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Insert: The following new “Application-oriented references” section.

**Application-oriented references**

*Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:*

Screw-in dental implants	<a href="#">A61C8/0018</a>
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**A61B17/8805**

**Definition statement**

Delete: In the “Definition statement” section, the following text located under the image.

Other examples:

WO2008001385, in which a cement injector is combined with a biopsy instrument

WO2004014262, in which the injector measures the pressure under which the filler is being injected

Insert: The following new “Limiting references” section.

**Limiting references**

*This place does not cover:*

Stabilisers comprising fluid filler in an implant, e.g. balloon; devices for inserting or filling such implants	<a href="#">A61B17/7097</a>
Preparing or supplying cement or other fluid fillers	<a href="#">A61B17/8833</a>

**A61B17/8825**

**Definition statement**

Delete: The entire “Definition statement” section.

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**Limiting references**

Delete: The following reference from the existing “Limiting references” table.

Tools for preparing fluid fillers e.g. bone cement	<a href="#">A61B17/8833</a>
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**Informative references**

Insert: The following new reference in the existing “Informative references” table.

Tools for preparing fluid fillers e.g. bone cement	<a href="#">A61B17/8833</a>
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**A61B17/8833****Limiting references**

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Mixing devices	<a href="#">B01F</a>
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**A61B17/885****Definition statement**

Replace: In the “Definition statement” section this existing text “compacting bone graft to form implants - an example of classification also in A61F 2/4644” located under the second set of images with the following text updated text.

- compacting bone graft to form implants

**Limiting references**

Replace: The existing reference in the “Limiting references” table with the following two new references.

Stabilisers comprising fluid filler in an implant, e.g. balloon; devices for inserting or filling such implants	<a href="#">A61B17/7097</a>
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Equipment for introducing fluid filler into bone or extracting it	<a href="#">A61B17/8805</a>
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Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Compacting bone graft or substitute in the body	<a href="#">A61F2/4601</a>
Preparation of bone graft, bone plugs or bone dowels, e.g. grinding or milling bone material	<a href="#">A61F2/4644</a>

**A61B17/8855**

**Limiting references**

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Balloon catheters	<a href="#">A61M25/10</a>
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**A61B17/8861**

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Bone cerclage	<a href="#">A61B17/82</a>
Wire working	<a href="#">B21F</a>

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## **A61B17/8863**

### **Definition statement**

Replace: The text in the “Definitions statement” section with the following updated text.

Apparatus for shaping or cutting by medical personnel.

Tools for breaking or fracturing osteosynthetic equipment.

Tools for adjusting the length of orthopaedic equipment.

### **Limiting references**

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

#### **Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Apparatus for manufacturing osteosynthetic equipment	<a href="#">A61B2017/00526</a>
Hand tools	<a href="#">B25B, B26B</a>

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2. B. DEFINITIONS QUICK FIX

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Location of change</u> (e.g., section title)	<u>Existing reference symbol or text</u>	<u>Action; New symbol; New text</u>
A61B 17/58	Informative references		<u>Delete</u> from the “Informative references” table the reference below.  Traction bandages A61F 13/10
A61B 17/68	Limiting references		<u>Delete</u> from the “Limiting references” table the reference below.  Fixation devices for wedge osteotomies A61B 17/8095
A61B 17/68	Limiting references		<u>Insert</u> in the Limiting references table the following <u>new</u> reference.  Bone staples A61B 17/0642
A61B 17/68	Informative references		<u>Delete</u> from the “Informative references” table the reference below.  Bone staples A61B 17/0642
A61B 17/68	Informative references		<u>Insert</u> in the “Informative references” table the following <u>new</u> references.  Prostheses implanted into the body – bones, bone grafts A61F 2/28  Prostheses implanted into the body – joints, e.g. shoulder, spine A61F 2/30  Devices for fastening or securing constructional elements or machine parts together, e.g. nails, bolts, clamps, clips F16B
A61B 17/865	Informative references		<u>Insert</u> in the “Informative references” table the following <u>new</u> reference.  Kinds or types of packages B65D



