

RADIOLOGY CODING ALERT

The practical monthly adviser for ethically optimizing coding reimbursement and efficiency in radiology practices

Get a Jump on CPT 2007 With These 3 Can't Miss Updates

► Solve the mystery of the chest x-ray CAD codes' location

You need a roadmap to make your way through all the CPT 2007 radiology code changes, and we've got you covered. *Watch out:* Many of the codes you used everyday in 2006 have new digits and the 2007 chest x-ray CAD codes aren't even in the manual.

Remember: Begin using the new codes for dates of service January 1 and later or risk getting denials, warns **Jackie Miller, RHIA, CPC**, senior consultant for Coding Strategies, Inc. in Powder Springs, Ga. Here's what you need to know.

1. Mark Up Your Mammogram/ Guidance Code Lists

The 77xxx range isn't just for radiation oncology any more. You'll find breast imaging services, including screening and diagnostic mammograms, CAD, and breast MRI in this range in CPT 2007, Miller says. For example, you'll report 77055 (*Mammography; unilateral*) in 2007, instead of the 2006 code, 76090.

"Radiologic Guidance" also has a new home: 77001-77032. CPT 2007 organizes the codes by fluoroscopic, computed tomography, magnetic resonance, and other guidance methods. So if you're coding guidance, don't make the mistake of entering the number you memorized in 2006. Always verify the proper code number.

Tip: Appendix M of the AMA's CPT 2007 Professional Edition crosswalks deleted 2006 codes to new 2007 codes.

2. Check Out the Chest X-Ray CAD Changes

"Effective January 1, 2007 two new CPT III codes will replace the existing code (+0152T) for chest x-ray CAD," in response to provider requests, reports **Michael Longacre**, HealthCare Market Strategies, Inc. consultant in Yamhill, Ore.:

- +0174T — *Computer aided detection (CAD) (computer algorithm analysis of digital image data for lesion detection) with further physician review for interpretation and report, with or without digitization of film radiographic images, chest radiograph(s), performed concurrent with primary interpretation* (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (Use 0174T in conjunction with 71010, 71020, 71021, 71022, 71030)
- 0175T — *... performed remote from primary interpretation* (Do not report 0175T in conjunction with 71010, 71020, 71021, 71022, 71030).

Key: Use +0174T with the originating chest x-ray CPT code, he says. But 0175T "is a stand alone code which is not inclusive of the chest x-ray."

So when "that chest x-ray CAD is performed at a different time, location or by another physician than the original chest x-ray," use 0175T, he says.

Good news: Dozens of payers offered reimbursement for chest x-ray CAD code +0152T in 2006. Many providers received between \$10 and \$27 for lung cancer detection performed on systems such as those intro-

duced by Riverain Medical. "The values for the new codes will not change," Longacre says.

Note: Codes +0174T and 0175T take effect Jan. 1, 2007, but you won't find them in the 2007 CPT manual. You can find them on the AMA Web site at www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/362/cat3codes.pdf.

3. Update Your UFE Coding

Pay attention to the code descriptor for the new UFE code — it includes multiple services, including all RS&I needed to complete the procedure, explains **Melanie Witt, RN, CPC-OGS, MA**, an independent coding consultant in Guadalupita, N.M.: 37210 (*Uterine fibroid embolization [UFE, embolization of the uterine arteries to treat uterine fibroids, leiomyomata], percutaneous approach inclusive of vascular access, vessel selection, embolization, and all radiological supervision and interpretation, intraprocedural roadmapping, and imaging guidance necessary to complete the procedure*). □

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