

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: New Category Tracks Office Performance

Question: I heard that there's a new code section coming in CPT 2004. What is it and how will we use it?

North Carolina Subscriber

Answer: Although CPT 2004's new section, Category II codes, may give you a chance to track E/M components and office performance, don't expect to see additional reimbursement.

CPT's new Category II adds supplemental tracking codes for performance measurements, and insurers don't pay for these codes. AMA adds this section to comply with HIPAA regulation requirements.

These codes will not affect reimbursement. Instead, AMA hopes that these codes will facilitate data collection about quality of care, and some of the codes may relate to healthcare professionals' compliance with state or federal law. You should be aware of the following:

1. AMA makes Category II code use optional. Also, do not substitute them for the regular Category I CPT codes.
2. Category II codes describe E/M service components or test results that are part of the laboratory test/procedure.
3. Category II codes have no relative value units assigned to them.
AMA will release new codes for this section semi-annually, and you can find them on the AMA/CPT Web site www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3885.html. They will be published in the CPT each year.

The Category II codes that will be effective Jan. 1, 2004, are:

4. 0001F - Blood pressure, measured
5. 0002F - Tobacco use, smoking, assessed
6. 0003F - Tobacco use, non-smoking, assessed
7. 0004F - Tobacco use cessation intervention, counseling
8. 0005F - Tobacco use cessation intervention, pharmacologic therapy
9. 0006F - Statin therapy, prescribed
10. 0007F - Beta-blocker therapy, prescribed
11. 0008F - ACE inhibitor therapy, prescribed
12. 0009F - Anginal symptoms and level of activity, assessed
13. 0010F - Anginal symptoms and level of activity, assessed using a standardized instrument (e.g., Canadian Cardiovascular Society Classification-CCSC-System, Seattle Angina Questionnaire-SAQ)
14. 0011F - Oral antiplatelet therapy, prescribed (e.g., aspirin, clopidogrel/Plavix, or combination of aspirin and

dipyridamole/Aggrenox).

- Answers for You Be the Coder and Reader Questions were reviewed by **Kathy Pride, CPC, CCS-P**, a coding consultant for QuadraMed in Port St. Lucie, Fla.; and **Bruce Rappoport, MD, CPC**, a board-certified internist who works with physicians on compliance, documentation, coding and quality issues for RCH Healthcare Advisors LLC, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based healthcare consulting company.