

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Use 99385 for Sports Physicals

**Question:** Recently our internist performed a sports physical for an established patient's son. Should we use codes 97005-97006 for this service?

South Carolina Subscriber

**Answer:** You cannot report codes 97005 (Athletic training evaluation) and 97006 (Athletic training re-evaluation) for sports physicals because these codes represent problem-oriented services, such as the physician's evaluation and educational training of an athletics injury.

To report a sports physical, you should use the age-appropriate preventive medicine code. For example, you could report 99385 (Initial comprehensive preventive medicine ...; 18-39 years).