

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### You Be the Expert: Same-Day Spirometry/Bronchospasm Tests

Question: Our internist conducted a spirometry and bronchospasm test on a patient on the same day. Can we report both procedures using modifier -59 to bypass the NCCI edits?

Oklahoma Subscriber

Answer: No, you cannot separately report spirometry and bronchospasm tests conducted on the same patient on the same day, with or without modifier -59 (Distinct procedural service). You should report 94060 (Bronchospasm evaluation: spirometry as in 94010, before and after bronchodilator [aerosol or parenteral]).

Warning: Before reporting any procedure performed on the same day as a bronchospasm test, check the NCCI edits. They clearly state that spirometry (94010, Spirometry, including graphic record, total and timed vital capacity, expiratory flow rate measurement[s], with or without maximal voluntary ventilation]) is bundled into 94060.

Some of the other codes that NCCI bundled into 94060 include:

1. 94200 -- Maximum breathing capacity, maximal voluntary ventilation
2. 94375 -- Respiratory flow volume loop
3. 94640 -- Pressurized or nonpressurized inhalation treatment for acute airway obstruction or for sputum induction for diagnostic purposes (e.g., with an aerosol generator, nebulizer, metered dose inhaler, or intermittent positive pressure breathing [IPPB] device)
4. 94664 -- Demonstration and/or evaluation of patient utilization of an aerosol generator, nebulizer, metered dose inhaler or IPPB device
5. 94770 -- Carbon dioxide, expired gas determination by infrared analyzer.

-- Reader Question and You be the Expert were reviewed by **Catherine Brink, CMM, CPC**, president of Healthcare Resource Management in Spring Lake, N.J.