

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Acupuncture Gains Codes, But Reimbursement Questions Persist

Medicare has always refused to pay for acupuncture (97780-97781) but CPT Codes 2005 deletes those codes and replaces them with two new codes for acupuncture with electrical stimulation. The new codes specify an initial 15 minutes of one-on-one contact with the patient (97813) and each additional 15 minutes (97814). The new focus on face-to-face patient care could signal a change in policy - although many providers are taking a "wait and see" approach.