

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

CCI Update: Watch for Corneal Ring Segment, Collagen Cross-Linking Bundles

Tip: You can report a Column 2 code with a Column 1 code ☐ but only under certain circumstances.

As of Jan. 1, coders have several new CPT® codes to add to their coding arsenals. And also as of Jan. 1, coders have a new set of rules from the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) about which codes can be reported together.

CCI 22.0 introduces more than 55,000 new coding bundles, more than a few of which have implications for ophthalmology practices.

Corneal Ring Segments Receive 200 New Bundles

A new CPT® code for 2016, 65785 (Implantation of intrastromal corneal ring segments), received nearly 200 new Column 2 codes, with a mix of modifier indicators 1 and 0. The Column 2 CPT® codes include most of the simple, intermediate, and complex repairs to the integumentary system (12001-13153), several venous and arterial procedures from the 36xxx family, and codes from the 64400-64530 series ("Introduction/Injection of Anesthetic Agent [Nerve Block], Diagnostic or Therapeutic Procedures on the Extracranial Nerves, Peripheral Nerves, and Autonomic Nervous System"). However, the only CPT® codes from the Eye and Ocular Adnexa series newly bundled into 65785 are:

- 67500 ☐ Retrobulbar injection; medication (separate procedure, does not include supply of medication)
- 68200 ☐ Subconjunctival injection.

In turn, 65785 was bundled into 65772 (Corneal relaxing incision for correction of surgically induced astigmatism) as a component of the comprehensive code; and into 65775 (Corneal wedge resection for correction of surgically induced astigmatism) as a mutually exclusive code pair. All four of these edits are marked with modifier indicator 1.

Rationale: It's unclear why CCI took this action, "as it seems unlikely they would have ever been performed together anyway," notes **Maggie M. Mac, CPC, CEMC, CHC, CMM, ICCE**, AHIMA-approved ICD-10 CM/PCS trainer and president of Maggie Mac-Medical Practice Consulting in Clearwater, Fla.

New Edits Impact New Temporary Collagen Code

A new temporary code in CPT® 2016, 0402T (Collagen cross-linking of cornea [including removal of the corneal epithelium and intraoperative pachymetry when performed]), also received hundreds of new Column 2 codes, including:

- 65275 ☐ Repair of laceration; cornea, nonperforating, with or without removal foreign body
- 65280 ☐ ... cornea and/or sclera, perforating, not involving uveal tissue
- 65285 ☐ ... cornea and/or sclera, perforating, with reposition or resection of uveal tissue
- 65430 ☐ Scraping of cornea, diagnostic, for smear and/or culture
- 67250 ☐ Scleral reinforcement (separate procedure); without graft
- 67500 ☐ Retrobulbar injection; medication (separate procedure, does not include supply of medication).

0402T was itself bundled into:

- 65220 ☐ Removal of foreign body, external eye; corneal, without slit lamp
- 65222 ☐ ... corneal, with slit lamp
- 65435 ☐ Removal of corneal epithelium; with or without chemocauterization (abrasion, curettage).

65855 (Trabeculoplasty by laser surgery) was bundled into:

- 65860 ☐ Severing adhesions of anterior segment, laser technique (separate procedure)
- 65865 ☐ Severing adhesions of anterior segment of eye, incisional technique (with or without injection of air or liquid) (separate procedure); goniosynechia
- 65870 ☐... anterior synechia, except goniosynechia
- 65875 ☐... posterior synechia
- 65880 ☐... corneovitreal adhesions.

Rationale: The edits "may have something to do with the use of the laser for a trabeculoplasty," Mac notes.

Check These Anesthesia Edits

Three anesthesia codes introduced in CPT® 2016 have been bundled into thousands of procedure codes, including approximately 265 Eye and Ocular Adnexa codes. CPT® 61650 (Endovascular intracranial prolonged administration of pharmacologic agent[s] other than for thrombolysis, arterial, including catheter placement, diagnostic angiography, and imaging guidance; initial vascular territory), 64461 (Paravertebral block [PVB] [paraspinal block], thoracic; single injection site [includes imaging guidance, when performed]), and 64463 (... continuous infusion by catheter [includes imaging guidance, when performed]) became Column 2 codes to thousands of other codes.

The 61650 edits were marked with modifier indicator 1, 64461 and 64463 with 0.