

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

CCI: Version 14.2 Halts Payment of 90769 With Several E/M Codes

Half of the new edit pairs affect anesthesiologists

The Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) strikes again, with more than 300,000 changes and 4,305 new bundles affecting Part B providers effective July 1.

This time around, CCI aims most of its fire at the anesthesia codes, directing nearly half of Version 14.2's new edits to the codes in the 00100-01999 range.

For example: CCI now bundles 36555-36556 (Insertion of central venous access device) into 93503 (Swan-Ganz insertion), but you can append a modifier to the pair to break the edit.

-Anesthesiologists reporting these two procedures together will need to make certain they are documenting the location of the CVP and Swan Ganz (they must be clearly separate) to allow a 59 modifier (Distinct procedural service) to release the edit,- says **Kelly Dennis, MBA, CPC, ACS-AP**, of **Perfect Office Solutions** in Leesburg, Fla.

Spine: In addition, CCI will now bundle 0171T (Insertion of posterior lumbar spinous process distraction device) into more than 20 other spine codes, such as 22102 (Partial excision of lumbar component), 22214 (Osteotomy of one vertebral segment, lumbar) and 63012 (Lumbar laminectomy), among others. But you can use a modifier to separate the edits if your documentation supports its use.

E/M: Your carrier will ensure that you avoid reporting new code 90769 (Subcutaneous infusion for therapy or prophylaxis ...) with E/M codes. The new CCI version bundles 90769 into 99218-99239 and most of the codes in the 99251-99440 range, but you can override most of these edits by using a modifier.

-Allowing the modifier is basically saying that modifier 59 can be used if the observation or consult or nursing home visit is done at a different time than the infusion,- says **Barbara J. Cobuzzi, MBA, CPC-OTO, CPC-H, CPC-P, CPC-I, CHCC**, president of **CRN Healthcare Solutions** in Tinton Falls, N.J.

-I would recommend that times be put in the chart for the E/M and for the infusion to solidify the claim of separate times-and separate times does not mean five or 10 minutes apart,- Cobuzzi says.