

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### Cystourethroscopy: CCI 10.1 Makes 52281 Component Of Many Cystourethroscopy Codes

#### Harder to bill for dilation of urethral stricture or stenosis separately

**CPT code 52281** (Cystourethroscopy, with calibration and/or dilation of urethral stricture or stenosis, with or without meatotomy, with or without injection procedure for cystography, male or female) became a component of several other cystourethroscopy codes.

The column 1 codes with this code are 52007-52010, 52214-52234, 52250-52277, 52282, 52290-52300, 52305, 52317-52330, 52334-52510, 52606, 52614, 52620-52640 and 52700. You can't use a modifier to override these edits.

52281 was already a component of 52235 (Cystourethroscopy with fragmentation of ureteral calculus) and 52240 (cystourethroscopy, with fulguration...LARGE bladder tumors).

Often, coders bill 52281 separately for urethral dilation along with procedures like a cystoscopic examination, retrograde pyelogram and urethral stent placement for a urethral stone.

"There are a lot of commercial carriers that already lump it into a lot of the other codes," says **Terry Vennell**, billing manager for **Knight, Boline & D'Amico** in Harrisburg, Penn. "I'm not surprised that it's been included in a lot of them." Her practice doesn't bill 52281 frequently, "but I could see where someone would want to bill it separately."

"If they have to do a urethral dilation while they're doing something else, like a cystoscopy with full duration or cystoscopy with biopsy, I don't bill separately for the 52281," adds Vennell.

"I think they would typically do that with other procedures," says **Laura Siniscalchi**, a senior consultant with **Deloitte and Touche** in Boston. "That'll be an issue" for coders, she adds.

Separately, 76000 (Fluoroscopy, up to one hour) and 76001 (Fluoroscopy, more than one hour) became components of cystourethroscopy codes 52005-52007, 52310-52346 and 52351-52355. You can use a modifier to override these edits.

Separately, axillary lymphadenectomy code 38740 became a component of mastectomy code 19240. Chemotherapy code 96530 became a component of pump implantation codes 62367 and 62368. Muscle and range of motion testing codes 95831 and 95833 both became components of 95834, while 95832 became a component of 95833.

Needle oculoelectromyography code 92265 became a component of needle electromyography code 95868 (cranial nerve supplied muscles, bilateral). And ambulatory blood pressure monitoring code 93788 (Scanning analysis with report) became a component of 93784 (Recording, scanning analysis, interpretation and report).