

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Part B Coding Coach: Check These 10 Surgical Changes for 2013 to Start the New Year on the Right Coding Track

Catheter changes lead the charge.

You'll be using CPT® 2013 codes before you know it, so let our experts give you a crash course in what's new for the coming year that might impact your surgeons.

Big change: "Continuing the trend to revise catheter coding (CPT® 2012 revised 36245-36248 and added 36251-36254, Selective catheter placement...), CPT® 2013 revises, adds or deletes 18 catheter-related codes," says **Marcella Bucknam, CPC, CPC-I, CCS-P, CPC-H, CCS, CPC-P, COBGC, CCC**, audit manager for CHAN Healthcare in Vancouver, Wash.

Check-Out This Quick-Reference Synopsis

Peruse this 10-bullet summary to see what's coming your way in CPT® 2013:

- **Island pedicle flap change:** Expect a revision to 15740 (Flap; island pedicle requiring identification and dissection of an anatomically named axial vessel) that distinguishes the code from 14000-14302 (for adjacent area flaps without clearly defined anatomically named axial vessels).
- **Fluid removal from chest:** CPT® 2013 deletes pneumocentesis and thoracentesis codes 32420-32422, and adds new codes for pleural aspiration (32554-32555, Thoracentesis, needle or catheter, aspiration of the pleural space...) and pleural drainage (32556-32557, Pleural drainage, percutaneous, with insertion of indwelling catheter...) to take their place. Tube thoracostomy 32551 revision specifies that it's an open procedure. You've already read about these changes in "32420-32422 Are Out -- Prep 4 New Thoracentesis and Drainage Codes," General Surgery Coding Alert Vol. 14, No. 12.
- **Catheter introduction:** Codes for vena cava (36010) and extremity artery (36140) catheter introduction will include moderate sedation in CPT® 2013.
- **Cervical, cerebral, and carotid selective catheter placement:** Expect to see eight new codes (36221-+36228, Non-selective/selective catheter placement...), each of which represents both catheter placement and radiological services. Because the new codes include angiography, 75650-75685 will be deleted. Read more about this change in "8 New Codes Merge Catheter Placement + Angiography" on page xxx of this issue.
- **Venipuncture changes:** Revisions to 36400-36410 (Venipuncture ...) allow "other qualified health care professionals" to perform the service, not just physicians.
- **Transcatheter foreign body retrieval:** New code 37197 (Transcatheter retrieval, percutaneous, of intravascular foreign body [e.g., fractured venous or arterial catheter], includes radiological supervision and interpretation, and imaging guidance [ultrasound or fluoroscopy], when performed) includes both transcatheter retrieval and imaging. Consequently, CPT® will delete transcatheter retrieval code 37203 and its related code 75961.
- **Transcatheter therapy infusion:** Thrombolysis codes 37201 (therapy) and 37209 (catheter exchange) that CPT® 2013 deletes are replaced with several more specific, comprehensive codes 37211-37214 (Transcatheter therapy...).
- **Transplantation cellular infusions:** New and revised CPT® instruction and codes 38240-38242 (HPC/Allogeneic lymphocyte...) clarify coding for cellular infusions of hematopoietic and other cells.
- **Optical endomicroscopy:** You'll have two new codes -- 43206 and 43252 -- to describe optical endomicroscopy to report high-resolution imaging during esophageal and upper gastrointestinal endoscopy.

Emerging technology category III codes: Capture extracorporeal shock wave for integumentary wound healing with

0299T-0300T, and malignant breast tumor microwave destruction/reduction with 0301T.