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INTERMEDIATE CODING

**A Presentation Sponsored by
Community Health Association of
Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS)**



Modifiers - Ambulatory Care

- See Appendix A in CPT Book for Definitions of Each Modifier
- Use of Modifiers Requires the Claim Form be Submitted in Handwritten Form, Not Electronically
- Provider (Physician, NP, PA) Dictation Must be Attached to Insurance Claim Form, Explaining the Unusual Circumstances

HCPCS Codes

- HCPCS = Health Care Financing Administration Current Procedural Coding System
- Codes Used Primarily by Other Than Physicians and Hospitals
- Used in Ambulatory Care to Replace CPT Code #99070 When Insurer Is Medicare or Medicaid (Now Universally Accepted)

Replacing 99070

- In *Most* Instances, Coding Will Take Place Only in the Sections Beginning With “A” and “J”
- “A” Codes Used for Supplies, e.g., Surgical Tray (A4550) or Urinary Catheter (A4351)
- “J” Codes Used for Injectable Drugs, e.g., Estrogen (J1410)
- Use Index & Check Drugs Carefully

Surgical Codes-Ambulatory Care

- Codes Beginning With 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 Indicate Surgical Procedures (Based on CPT Definitions), e.g., 36415, “Routine Venipuncture”
- When Using Surgical Codes, Follow Surgical Ground Rules, Not Medicine Rules
- Assure Pricing Is Based on Surgical Relative Value Units (RVUs), Not Medical
- Remember to Add Trays, Supplies, Etc.



Integumentary System (Skin)

- Use Codes in This Section (“1”) for Excisions and Repairs
- Most Commonly “Missed” Codes in This Section Are for Local Treatment of Minor Burns (See Codes 16000 Through 16030)

Musculoskeletal System (Muscles, Joints, Bones, Etc.)

- Use Codes in This Section (“2”) for Deeper Excisions, Repairs & Explorations; Trigger Point & Joint Injections; Aspirations of Joints & Bursae; Care of Fractures, Sprains, Strains & Dislocations
- Most Common Errors Regard Fracture & Casting Care - Read Instructions Preceding Code 29000 Very Carefully

Respiratory & Cardiovascular System

- This Section (“3”) Includes Hemic, Lymphatic, Mediastinum & Diaphragm but Codes Not Typically Used in Ambulatory Care
- Most Common Errors Are Removal of Foreign Body, Excisions, Repairs and Care of Nosebleeds
- Review Codes for Venipuncture & EKGs

Digestive System

- This Section (“4”) Includes All Structures of the Digestive System from the Vermilion Border of the Lips to the Edge of the Anus Where It Meets the Skin
- All Procedures Normally Coded to the Integumentary System That Are Anatomically Located in This System Must be Coded With a Number Starting With “4”

Urinary, Reproductive & OB

- This Section (“5”) Includes All Structures of the Urinary & Reproductive Systems, Including Obstetrics
- All Procedures Normally Coded to the Integumentary System That Are Anatomically Located in These Systems Must be Coded With a Number Starting With “5”, e.g., Warts Vs. Venereal Warts

Obstetrics

- Most Common Errors Are Those Associated With NOT Reviewing the Rules Printed with Maternity Care and Delivery
- Carefully Read the Rules Presented That Precede Code 59000

Nervous System, Eye, Ear

- This Section (“6”) Contains Virtually No Codes in the Nervous System Used in Ambulatory Care
- Sections Covering Eye and Ear Contain a Few Ambulatory Care Codes, e.g., Removal of Foreign Body, Removal of Impacted Cerumen

Question & Answer Session



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Maureen Hong is a consultant with Hong & Associates, providing practice management consulting services to clinics, physicians, hospitals, and other health care organizations (in both public and private sectors). She is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a licensed Physician Assistant and Registered Nurse, with additional degrees in Community Medicine and Health Care Administration. Her career has taken her through multiple health-related fields, as a practitioner in primary care practices, a clinical instructor at the University of Colorado, and past Executive Director of Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) and Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS). Maureen Hong's current consulting involves workshop and seminar development and presentation, grant application development, Health Professional Shortage Area designation applications, and health care and business plans for private and public non-profit corporations.