

Annual APC Update

OBJECTIVE: On August 1, 2000, the Medicare ambulatory payment classification (APC) system became effective for most hospital outpatient services. On January 1st of each year, many of the APC system payment groups, rates, and policies are updated to reflect: input from the advisory APC Panel, issues identified via claims processing, and input from the public in response to proposed APC changes. This program will highlight the major APC system changes that will go into effect each January 1st.

AUDIENCE: Chief Executive Officers, Chief Operating Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Vice Presidents of Finance, Controllers, Chargemaster Coordinators, Database Managers, Software Vendor Product Managers, Billing Supervisors, Billing Specialists, Compliance Auditors, Coding Managers, Reimbursement Specialists, Directors of: Compliance, Decision Support, Patient Accounts/Business Office, Information Systems, Health Information Management, Ancillary Departments, Hospital-Based Clinics, and Utilization Management; and ALL hospital staff responsible for outpatient coding including registration, emergency room, ancillary department and hospital-based clinic staff.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: The program has been pre-approved by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) for continuing education (CE) clock hours in the “External Forces” core content area.

DURATION: 4 hours

CURRICULUM:

I. Review of New Complete List of APC Groups and Rates

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| A. New Groups | B. Deleted Groups |
| C. Revised Groups | D. Payment Rate Changes |

II. APC Group Assignments for New CPT and HCPCS Level II Codes

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| A. Evaluation and Management CPT Codes | B. Surgery CPT Codes |
| C. Radiology CPT Codes | D. Laboratory & Pathology |
| E. Medicine/Other Diagnostics CPT Codes | F. Category II and III CPT Codes |
| G. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II Codes | |

III. Review of Current Medicare List of Inpatient Only Procedures

IV. Major APC Policy Changes for the New Calendar Year

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| A. Coding | B. Billing |
| C. Claims Processing/Editing | D. Payment |