

New Technology

- New Technology APCs not based on clinical aspects of services they contain
- New Technology APCs based on “cost” of items or services
- Procedures moved from New Technology APCs to clinical APCs once CMS determines that it has collected sufficient cost data on the technology
- After 2-3 years, moved to clinically related APC group with comparable costs
- If no APC exists with these characteristics, CMS will create a new classification

New Technology

- New procedure CTA
- CT Abdomen w/ contrast and CT Pelvis w/ contrast and 3D Recon
- Hospital charge data determines New Technology APC assignment & reimbursement
- New procedure reimbursed less than prior combined old codes
- Hospital facility payments--Not physician reimbursement
- May effect decision to invest in CT equipment/workstations

Data Collection

- Hospital charge data used in APC grouping and payment
- Hospital charges sometimes based on APCs and not costs
- HOPPS payment rates based on hospital claims data (2 year lag)
- How does your hospital determine its “costs” for HOPPS?

Summary

- Diverse committee with physicians, hospitals, physicists, ACR Economics staff, academics and private practice
- Steep learning curve
- Predictable cycle of review
- New Technology and Data Collection challenges ahead

Hospital Payment Updates

- HOPPS conversion factor adjusted by the Hospital Market Basket Index
 - MBI: measures increase in cost of goods and services purchased by Hospitals
 - Wages
 - Benefits
 - Utilities
 - Technological Change
 - Productivity
 - Changes induced by change in case mix (actual or due to coding improvement)

APC	APC Name	CPT Codes	2005 Pymt	2006 Pymt	Percent Change
260	Level I Plain Film	77417	\$43.87	\$43.42	-1.0%
299	Misc. Radiation Treatment	77470	\$332.60	\$343.25	3.2%
300	Level I Rad Therapy	77401-77409, 77789	87.06	\$87.24	0.2%
301	Level II Rad Therapy	77411-77416, 77422, 77423, 77750	124.12	\$131.26	5.8%

APC	APC Name	CPT Codes	2005 Pymt	2006 Pymt	Percent Change
303	Treatment Device Construction	77332-77334	\$163.67	\$168.07	2.7%
304	Level I Rad Treatment Prep	77280, 77299, 77300, 77305, 77326, 77331, 77336, 77370, 77399	\$97.48	\$103.09	5.8%
305	Level II Rad Treatment Prep	77285, 77290, 77310, 77315, 77321, 77327, 77328	\$224.07	\$234.09	4.5%

APC	APC Name	CPT Codes	2005 Pymt	2006 Pymt	Percent Change
310	Level III Rad Treatment Prep	77295, 77301	\$813.57	\$826.12	1.5%
312	Radioelement Applications	77761, 77762, 77763, 77776, 77777	\$317.87	\$331.32	4.2%
313	Brachytherapy	77781-77784, 77799	\$790.75	\$774.85	-2.0%
314	Hyperthermic Therapies	77600-77620	\$242.79	\$332.31	36.9%
412	IMRT Delivery	77418, 0073T	\$309.20	\$318.82	3.1%

APC	APC Name	CPT Codes	2005 Pymt	2006 Pymt	Percent Change
651	Complex Interstitial Radiation Source Application	77778	\$1,248.93	\$666.21	-46.7%
664	Level I Proton Beam Therapy	77520, 77522	\$561.62	\$947.93	68.8%
667	Level II Proton Beam Therapy	77523, 77525	\$850.00	\$1,134.08	33.4%

CPT/APC Valuation

- Reference to RUC / PEAC surveys
- Independent surveys (ABT)
- Hospital cost data
- Hospital billing data (adjusted by the hospital's cost-to-charge ratio)
- Professional Specialty Society interactions with CMS

Can I Get Paid Now?



ACCURATE CODING

- CPT language instructs users to use code that “accurately” reflects the procedure that is performed.

CLOSE IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!

3-D Treatment Course

- 77295 *Therapeutic radiology simulation-aided field setting three-dimensional*
- 77300 Basic Dosimetry Calculation
- 77331 Special Dosimetry
- 77332-334 Treatment Devices
- 77280-290 Simulation
- 77370 Special Medical Physics Consultation
- 77412-416 Treatment Delivery
- 77336 Continuing Medical Physics Consultation
- 77470 Special Treatment Procedure
- Includes the isodose plan codes 77301-315
- For each MU calculation
- If prescribed and performed
- If prescribed and performed

For any billing event

- Medical Necessity (Local Coverage Determinations, medical review policy, professional guidance, etc.)
- Prescribed by physician
- Performed
- Documented

Prostate HDR Brachytherapy

- 77784 Remote Afterloading High Intensity Brachytherapy, over 12 source positions or catheters
- 77290 Simulation, Complex
- 77328 Brachy Isodose Plan, Complex
- 77300 Basic Dosimetry Calculation
- 77332 Treatment Device, Simple
- 77370 Special Medical Physics Consultation
- 77470 Special Treatment Procedure
- 77336 Continuing Medical Physics Consultation
- C1717 HDR Iridium-192 Source
- C1728 Brachytherapy Catheters
- C1715 Brachytherapy Needles

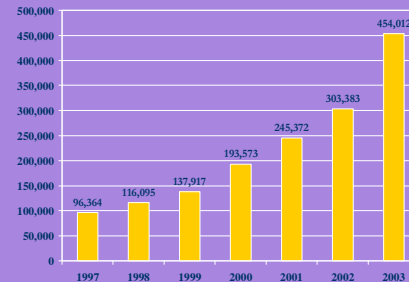
Recent & Emerging Coding Changes Dx Imaging

- CT colonography
- PET & PET-CT
- Diagnostic ultrasound guidelines
- Coronary CT angiography
- 2D reformatting and 3D rendering

2D & 3D: Background

- ACR averted edits, but...
 - On condition of CPT “fix” to address
 - Increased utilization of generic 2D/3D code
 - Limited work of 2D
- 2D: soon part of base study
 - Hopefully addressed in 5-year review of CT
- 3D: new codes
 - Hopefully preserve value for complex work

2D & 3D Post-Processing



Recent & Emerging Coding Changes - RT

- G0173 – Stereotactic Radiosurgery, 1 Session
- G0242 – SRS plan – replaced by CPT codes '06
- G0243 – SRS delivery, GK, all lesions one day
- G0251 – Linac SRS, all lesions, per session, 1-5
- G0338 – Linac SRS plan, use CPT codes in '06
- G0339 – Image Guided Robotic Therapy, SRS/SBRT, session 1
- G0340 – IG Robotic Therapy, SRS/SBRT, 2-5

Recent & Emerging Codes for Radiation Therapy

- CPT 77421 – Stereoscopic Guidance (kV or MV), daily when done, documented
 - Not charged with G0339/ G0340
 - Can be charged with IMRT
- CPT 76950 – Ultrasound Guidance (BAT, Sonaray) – daily when done, documented
- CPT 76370 – CT Guidance (TomoTherapy, OBI Cone Beam), daily when used, documented

CODER CERTIFICATION

- Radiology/Radiation Oncology /Medical Physics not a significant segment of other coding exams
- Radiology Coding Certification Board (RCCB) established as arms length project by RBMA
- ACR staff and ACR members assisted with construction of exam as well as refinement
- Includes radiology, radiation oncology and compliance questions
- Open book exams

Get your coders certified!!

(www.rccb.org)

ASTRO/ACR Radiation Oncology Coding User's Guide

- ASTRO/ACR has published a User's Guide to inform members of appropriate coding for each procedure in the CPT manual
- Appropriate documentation for each procedure is outlined in the guide
- Descriptions of the reimbursing entities are also presented, along with appendices
- Guide was revised for 2005

Special Physics Consult

- Special Physics Consult does not need to be limited to traditional external beam patients
- CPT 77370 can be billed to Diagnostic or Nuclear Medicine patients for a variety of procedures (e.g. I-131 thyroid ablation work, assessment of fetal dose from Dx procedures, etc.)
- Must be for a specific patient and report required

Questionable Practices

- Special Medical Physics Consultations (77370) on all or nearly all patients
- Special Dosimetry (77331) routinely on all patients for QA purposes
- Continuing medical physics consultation (77336) without participation by the medical physicist
- Special dosimetry (77331) for seed calibration measurements
- More than one Basic Dosimetry Calculation (77300) for a field

Questions?

