New Code Edit for 3-D Treatment Planning and Basic Dosimetry Effective January 1st

The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) has implemented a code edit for 77295 3-dimensional radiotherapy plan and 77300 Basic radiation dosimetry calculation effective January 1, 2016. This means that there will be no separate payment for CPT 77300 when it is provided on the same day CPT 77295.

| 77295 | Do not report dosimetry calculations (77300) with 3D plans (77295) These are considered integral to the planning process and should not be reported separately |

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the NCCI to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment in Medicare Part B claims. The CMS developed its coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association’s CPT Manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practices, and a review of current coding practices.

Both ACR and ASTRO fought hard with CMS against this edit but CMS has moved forward with implementation. ASTRO commented that at the April 2014 RUC meeting, the work of CPT 77300 was bundled into the isodose planning codes (CPT 77305, 77315, 77326, 77327 and 77328). CPT 77295 was specifically excluded from this bundling request by the Joint CPT/RUC Workgroup and Relativity Assessment Workgroup of the RUC. Moreover, when CPT 77295 was revalued in February 2013, the work described by CPT code 77300 was not accounted for in its valuation. Therefore, ASTRO does not believe there to be any duplication of work or practice expense for these two codes. This policy misinterprets the work performed under these codes. To read more see the link to this week’s ASTROgram at: https://www.astro.org/Practice-Management/Reimbursement/Medicare/News/2015/ASTRO-Opposes-New-Edit-Prohibiting-the-Reporting-of-77300-with-77295.aspx