New Code Edit Prohibiting the Reporting of 77300 With 77295

The 2016 National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Policy Manual for Medicare Services was released last month for services effective January 1, 2016. NCCI is a contractor for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that aims to prevent improper payment when incorrect code combinations are reported. Beginning January 1, 2016, NCCI will no longer allow the following CPT codes to be reported together:

77300: Basic radiation dosimetry calculation, central axis depth dose calculation, TDF, NSD, gap calculation, off axis factor, tissue inhomogeneity factors, calculation of non-ionizing radiation surface and depth dose, as required during course of treatment, only when prescribed by the treating physician.

77295: 3-dimensional radiotherapy plans, including dose-volume histograms.

AAPM believes that this NCCI edit misinterprets the work performed under these codes, and will result in unfair and significant payment cuts for radiation oncologists and facilities who are performing these critical procedures. AAPM will work with ASTRO and other stakeholders to advocate for a reversal of this NCCI decision.

CMS has implemented an edit on these codes because the agency believes the work of 77300 is integral to the work of 77295, and therefore is not considered a separately reportable procedure. AAPM maintains that the work represented by CPT codes 77295 and 77300 is separate and necessary to provide safe and effective radiation therapy treatment. AAPM opposes this edit, however, the agency has moved forward with implementation of this edit effective January 1, 2016.