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Newsletter Topics 2011-2016

2016 NEWSLETTERS

May 2016: Volume #2 2016, Issue 5

- ICD-1- Assessment
- MACRA Changes: MIPS and APMs
- Another Provider Drops ACA Coverage
- Simulation - The Facts with IMRT

April 2016: Volume #2 2016, Issue 4

- Bundling Devices in the GYN Brachy Insertion Codes
- Bundling & Reimbursement
- 77280 with IMRT Now Effective- 4/1/16
- FAQs on the Billing of PFS for the Advanced Care Planning Codes
- Quarterly CCI and MUE Updates
- Comprehensive Models, the Future?

March 2016: Volume #2 2016, Issue 3

- Finally, We Have Clarification
- Simulation and IMRT
- Dose Calculations (77300) and 3D Plan (77295)
- SRS -CP Modifier Clarification
- BRCA Testing Coverage- Noridian

February 2016: Volume #2 2016, Issue 2

- Any Clarification...Not Yet
- Medicare Overpayment Ruling
- IGRT Reporting
- IGRT Reporting with IMRT (Regarding Sim)
- Advanced Care Planning Codes Framework

January 2016: Volume #2 2016, Issue 1

- 2016...Here We Go
- CCI edit for 77790
- Final Rule Bundle Simulation with IMRT
- 77370 and IMRT
- Noridian LCD update on IMRT
- New HCPCS Code for Brachytherapy
- Deleted LDR Codes (77776 & 77777)
- Productivity Study
- 2016 LCD Map
- Moonshot Initiative
- Rate Differential 99xxx Codes
- Advanced Care Planning & Annual Wellness

2015 NEWSLETTERS

December 2015: Volume #4 2016, Issue 4

- 2016 Change Summary
- IMRT Devices
- 77334 MUE Value Change for 2016
- CP Modifier
- CCI EDIT Changes - Impacting Brachytherapy 77778, 77789, 77300 for 2016
- Dose Calculations for 77295
- Misvalued Codes
- 2016 MPFS Linac Utilization Rate
- 2016 SMRC Review
- ABN Code Update for MPFS
- 2016 OIG Work Plan
- 2016 RAC Updates
- LDCT (Screening for Lung Cancer with Low Dose Computed Tomography)
- Site Neutral Medicare Payments
- Better Care for Veterans

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2015 NEWSLETTERS (continued)

November 2015: Volume #3 2015, Issue 3

- 2016 Federal Register Final Rule Publications
- CY 2016 Conversion Factors
- G-Codes Are Staying
- CY 2016 Deleted Codes
- CY 2016 Code Revisions
- CY 2016 New Skin Brachy Application Codes
- CY 2016 New HDR Brachy Application Codes
- CY 2016 New Codes for Prolonged Service with Direct Patient Contact
- CY 2016 APC Category Changes
- Changes - CY 2016 Compared to CY 2015
- SpaceOAR for Prostate Treatment
- CY 2016 CAPC Changes for Stereotactic
- Modifier use for adjunctive SRS CAPC services
- CY 2016 Codes by APC
- Financial Impact for 2016
- IMRT Treatment Delivery
- Simulation & Isodose Planning
- OCCAM'S Razor – or is it CMS's Razor

October 2015: Volume #2 2015, Issue 2

- Let the Changes Begin
- Deleted Codes
- About HDR
- New HDR Brachytherapy Application Codes
- New Electronic Brachytherapy Application Codes
- New Separately Payable Procedure Code
- Updated Codes
- Keep Your Information Saf
- Decrease Your Risk
- Flu Season
- MUE Update
- Administrators Corner

September 2015: Volume #1 2015, Issue 1

- Proposal...Comment....Wait
- ICD-10 Reminder
 - CMS Summarized Facts
- Do You Have A Plan?
 - Benefits of a Strong Compliance Plan
 - 7 Elements of a Strong Compliance Plan
- Conversion Factor
- Image Guidance- 77387
 - Current bundling of 77387

July 2015: Volume #6 2015, Issue 146

- Proposed Rules Released
- Links for 2016 Federal Register
- Brachytherapy Code Changes
- G-Codes will be Deleted – Imaging & Treatment
- Hospital Treatment Reimbursement
- Global Treatment RVU & Reimbursement
- Comparing IGRT Reimbursement
- Reporting Simulation Services with IMRT
- Simulation Reimbursement
- Isodose Planning
- Brachytherapy Isodose Planning
- CHIP Reauthorization Act

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2015 NEWSLETTERS (continued)

June 2015: Volume #5 2015, Issue 145

- More on Simulation
 - In the CPT Assistant, November 2013
 - Simulation Requires a Patient
 - Planning Requires a Dosimetrist or Physicist
 - BVS Process & Level Determination
 - Components Recognized
 - APC Category
- Medicare Claims Processing Manual
 - Billing for IMRT Planning & Delivery
 - Additional Instructions IMRT Planning
 - Interpretation of MCPM Wording
- OIG
- Carrier Policies on Simulation with IMRT
- Recommendations

May 2015: Volume #4 2015, Issue 144

- Simulation
 - Process, Level, Treatment Area
 - Pre-Planning, BVS, Boost, Repeat
 - Supervision, Documentation, Bundling
- SGR (Sustainable Growth Rate) Repealed
- New RAC Limitations

April 2015: Volume #3 2015, Issue 143

- About the SRG
- Where Did Congress Leave Us?
- Limit Your Impact?
- MPFS: April Rate Changes Medicare Part
- MPFS: Rate Look Up Tool
- Hospital: April Rate Changes OPPS

February 2015: Volume #2 2015, Issue 142

- What is a Week?
- What are Weekly Services?
- 77336: Weekly Physics
- 77427: Weekly Management
- 77417: Weekly Port Films
- What Services are Limited to a Week?

January 2015: Volume #1 2015, Issue 141

- Orthovoltage
- 2D vs 3D Planning
- Summary of IGRT for 2015 Based on POS
- Gating (G6017)
- Conversion Factor
- Rate Differential with CF Change

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2014 NEWSLETTERS

October-November 2014: Volume #8 2014, Issue 139

- Yes, There ARE Changes for 2015
- How RVU Work
- Crosswalk to G-Codes and APC
- Reporting IGRT in 2015
- Tricky Reporting Quandary
- Reimbursement for Daily Treatments & IGRT
- New Teletherapy Isodose Planning Codes
- New Brachytherapy Isodose Planning Codes
- Comprehensive APC
- 2015 Coding Changes Webinars
- -59 Modifier Changes

August-September 2014: Volume #7 2014, Issue 138

- 2015 Code Changes Announced
- Deleted Radiation Treatment Deliver Codes
- Revised Treatment Codes
- Superficial and Orthovoltage
- Conventional Radiation Therapy Treatment Code Revision
- New IMRT Treatment Codes
- New IGRT Codes
- Reporting IGRT in 2015
- New Teletherapy Isodose Planning Codes
- New Brachytherapy Isodose Planning Codes

July 2014: Volume #6 2014, Issue 137

- 2015 Proposed – Not Final
- Comment Period
- Additional Changes Pending
- Proposed Rules: Part B
- MPFS: Proposed Conversion Factor
- Practice Expense Proposed Changes
- Proposed Rules: OPSS
- MPFS: Comparing 2015 and 2014 Treatment Rates
- HOPPS Conversion Factor
- CY 2015 OPSS Proposed Packaging Policy
- Status Indicator Categories for OPSS
- Conditional Packaging
- APC Category Changes
- Hospitals - Welcome to the Proposed J1 Comprehensive APC
- Comparing C-APC to SRS Unbundled
- 2015 Proposed APC Category, SI, Rates

June 2014: Volume #5 2014, Issue 136

- Reporting Devices: Portal vs. Site of Service
- Reporting Devices: Volume of Interest
- Bolus vs. Compensator
- Brachytherapy Isodose Planning (77326-77328)
- Dwell Positions Determine Brachy Planning
- Codes Associated w Brachy Applications
- Imaging with Brachytherapy
- Special TX Procedure with Brachytherapy
- Summary of Brachytherapy Coding

May 2014: Volume #4 2014, Issue 135

- 2015 Potential Code Changes
- Authoritative Source Guidelines
- Do You Know Your Carrier?
- Do You Know What Your Carrier's Rules Are?
- Current LCD Wording for 77300
- IMRT LCD Wording
- SBRT LCD Wording
- Brachytherapy LCD Wording
- Are You Face-to-Face with Technology, or Your Patient?

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2014 NEWSLETTERS (continued)

April 2014: Volume #3 2014, Issue 134

- ICD-10 on Hold
- Rate Increase 77293
- Frequency Analysis
- Documenting 99205
- Review of System Documentation
- Level of Decision-Making

February-March 2014: Volume #2 2014, Issue 133

- Simulation: Proper Coding 2014
- Clinical Treatment Planning
- Roadmap to Documentation

January 2014: Volume #1 2014, Issue 132

- 2014 Updates
- Final Conversion Factor and Rates
- Simulation in 2014 – Proper Use
- Choosing the Simulation Level
- What Services Does the Simulation Description Include?
- Complex Blocking or Custom Shielding Blocks
- 77293–Report/Document Respiratory Motion Sim
- Mid Course Simulations or CT Data Acquisitions
- Brachytherapy Simulation vs. 3D Brachytherapy Isodose Planning
- Packaging vs. Bundled
- Packaged Service Status Indicators
- Stereotactic Radiosurgery – No More G-Codes

2013 NEWSLETTERS

December 2013: Volume #8 2013, Issue 131

- OPSS – One Room Charge
- 2014 OPSS Conversion Factor - \$72.672
- OPSS Packaging Proposal Abandoned
- Meaningful Use Implementation Delayed
- Comparison of 2013-2014 Rates
- MPFS Conversion Factor (Still Pending)
- Summary of Simulation Reimbursement
- Sample Prostate Reimbursement Changes
- G-Codes Gone for SRS/SBRT Procedures
- Supervision Nonenforcement Policy Expires in 2013

November 2013: Volume #7 2013, Issue 130

- 2014 Final Rules Released
- Conversion Factor History
- Rate comparison – proposed 2014 RVU and CF
- Qualifying for +77293
- 4D Scans are Free Breathing
- + 77293
- DIBH is not 4D
- Compare 4D and 3D
- 3D DIBH & Associated Work
- Will DIBH Work Qualify for a 'Special Code' During Treatment

August-October 2013: Volume #6 2013, Issue 129

- 2014 – New Code 77293
- 2014 – Code Changes Simulations
- Device Level: MLC is NOT Always Complex
- 2014 – Code Changes 3D
- 2014: No more G-Codes for Stereotactic
- CMS to Look at DOS for MUE
- IGRT – The Real Rules
- IGRT Orders
- Qualifying for IGRT

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2013 NEWSLETTERS (continued)

June-July 2013: Volume #5 2013, Issue 128

- Big Changes Announced (MPFS)
- How to Report the 'Virtual' in the Sim Process
- Simulation and Planning
- Comparing Imaging Rates
- Sample IMRT Course MPFS
- RA Announces IMRT Review
- CMS Approved Audit Issues
- OPPS 2014 Proposed Changes
- 2013 Status Indicators
- 2014 Status Indicators
- Typical Regimen Flow
- Sample Course under OPPS
- APC Rate Changes

May 2013: Volume #4 2013, Issue 127

- Simulation
- How to Report the 'Virtual' in the Sim Process
- Coding Summary
- Who is Qualified to Supervise?

March-April 2013: Volume #3 2013, Issue 126

- Sequestration and You
- What the Hospital Impact Is
- What the Physician Impact Is
- What Freestanding Impact Is
- 77371-Cobalt Based SRS Also Cut
- Other Proposals in the Works
- Proposed Imaging

February 2013: Volume #2 2013, Issue 125

- Are you Familiar with Your RAC Auditor?
- Stereotactic Audit Announced
- Appropriate Quantities
- Carrier LCD Policies Limiting SBRT
- SRS/SRT/SBRT
- Utilization Guidelines for SBRT
- Documentation Guideline SBRT
- Medical Necessity (SBRT)
- What Does Robotic Mean to You
- Standard Steps & Codes
- Co-Surgeons

January 2013: Volume #1 2013, Issue 124

- Conversion Factor Final at \$34.0230
- Compare APC Rates
- Compare MPFS Rates
- What Reimbursement Will Look Like in 2013

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2012 NEWSLETTERS

November-December 2012: Volume #9 2012, Issue 123

- What Our Rates Will Look Like
- Sample IMRT Course: Comparing 2013 RVU with both Conversion Factors
- Sample IMRT Course: Comparing 2013 RVU with 25 CF and 2012
- Compare an IMRT Course for 2013 w 34 CF and 2012 Rates
- Sample 3D Course: Comparing 2013 RVU with both Conversion Factors
- Sample 3D Course: Comparing 2013 RVU with 25 CF and 2012
- Compare 3D Course for 2013 w 34 CF and 2012 Rates

October 2012: Volume #8 2012, Issue 122

- Are Your Physicians Attending ASTRO?
- HIPAA Breaches; How Safe Are You?
- CMS Security Guidelines
- How Secure is Your Copier?
- How Coding Guidelines Vary and/or Change
- Who is Your Carrier?
- Does Your Carrier Bundle Services w 77301?
- Date of Service (DOS) for 77300 with IMRT
- Performance Scale – Which Do You Use?
- Wording Variations-Which Do You Use?
- Does Immobilization Define the Sim Level?
- Know Your Policy

August-September 2012: Volume #7 2012, Issue 121

- Meaningful Use Time Line
- Core Measurements 1-15
- Goal of EHR
- Medicare EHR Incentive Payment Schedule for Eligible Professionals
- Qualifying for Meaningful Use
- Benefits of EHR
- Roadmap to EHR
- Pitfalls of EMR Technology
- Supplying EMR Records to Others
- Organizing & Securing Your PDF

July 2012: Volume #6 2012, Issue 120

- CY 2013 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Proposed
- Conversion Factor & Proposed RVU
- Major Code Changes
- Side by Side: 3D vs IMRT with 2013 CF
- Table 1: APC Comparison
- Table 2: RVU Comparison
- Table 3: Comparison 2013-2012 w 2012 CF
- Table 4: Comparison 2013-2012 w 2013 CF

June 2012: Volume #5 2012, Issue 119

- What is the Correct Date of Service?
 - What Constitutes a 'Week'
 - Personnel Performing 77336
 - Services With T & P Components
 - DOS for Imaging
 - DOS for Isodose Planning
 - E-Signature Authentication
 - E-Signature Attestation
 - Signature Integrity
- Attestation Document
 - Physician Attestation Section Sample
 - DOS is Clear
 - Physician is Clear
- Control Points (Not Reportable)
 - Basic Dosimetry for Control Points
 - Devices for Plans with Control Points
- IMRT Basic Dosimetry

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2012 NEWSLETTERS (continued)

April-May 2012: Volume #4 2012, Issue 118

- Documentation Requirements
- When are Orders Required
- Included in CPT
- RAC and 77300
- Guest Article: Written Directive or Order
- Written Directive Parameters
- Know What You Are Ordering
- New Codes for Medical Oncology
- Quarterly NCCI and ME Changes

March 2012: Volume #3 2012, Issue 117

- Brachytherapy
- Clinical Treatment Planning (77263)
- Special Treatment Procedure (77470)
- Brachytherapy Simulation
- Brachytherapy Isodose Planning
- Brachytherapy Calculations
- Device Codes
- Surgical Placement Codes
- Collaborating Physician Charges
- Imaging Codes
- Brachytherapy Applications
- Sample LDR Case
- Sample HDR Case

February 2012: Volume #2 2012, Issue 116

- Simulation and Isodose Planning Processes
- Simulation
- Equipment
- Virtual Process
- Test Your Simulation Notes
- Reporting CT data acquisition
- Planning Volumes
- Simulation Quantities = 1 per Day
- Documentation for Simulation
- Device Quantities
- Conventional Simulation (77280-77290)
- Simulation on a Dedicated CT
- Pre-Planning Simulation (77290)
- Block Verification Simulation (77280)
- IMRT Simulation Levels (77280-77290)
- Isodose Planning Processes
- Two dimensional planning
- Special Teletherapy Port Plan
- Three dimensional planning
- IMRT planning

January 2012: Volume #1 2012, Issue 115

- CY_2012 Final Rates Compared to 2011

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2011 NEWSLETTERS

November-December 2011: Volume #7 2011, Issue 114

- Calculating Physician Payment (MPFS)
- Rates for High Volume Services Decrease: 2012
- Compare 2012 to 2011 Rates
- Misvalued Codes: 2012
- PQRS
- PQRS Incentive Program
- APC Changes for 2012
- Links for the Final Rules
- Links for 2012 Work Plan
- Final Changes to Rates under OPSS in CY 2012

September-October 2011: Volume #6 2011, Issue 113

- Code Change: Special TX Procedure (77470)
- Treatment Management: Description Changes
- Providing Records to Patients in EMR World
- Verbal Orders: Timeframe Requirement
- Consultations: Timeframe Requirement

July-August 2011: Volume #5 2011, Issue 112

- Reimbursement Code 77338
- Proper Use of Modifier 59
- Documentation for Separate and Distinct
- CMS Identifies Incorrect Use of Modifier 59 to Bypass CCI Edits
- NCCI Edit Overview
- NCCI Edits – Physicians
- NCCI Edits – Hospital Outpatient PPS
- Medically Unlikely Edits
- CMS Medicare Claims Processing Manuals
- Medicare Claims Processing Manual: Chpt 23
- OIG: Use of Modifier 59 to Bypass CCI Edits
- Hospital OCE Code Editor
- DOS for Reporting 77338
- Reporting 77300 for IMRT
- What Constitutes a 2nd Algorithmic Calc?
- 2012 MPFS Update Released

May-June 2011: Volume #4 2011, Issue 111

- IGRT: 'This Treatment/' 'Next Treatment'
- Date of Service (DOS)
- Date of Service in EMR
- Authenticating Records
- Authentication Verbal Orders
- Cloned Medical Notes
- E-Prescribing Incentive Deadline: June 30

March-April 2011: Volume #3 2011, Issue 110

- What Codes ARE they Looking At?
- Preparing Your IGRT Documentation

February 2011: Volume #2 2011, Issue 109

- What are Edits?
- NCCI Edits
- Modifiers
- NCCI Policy Manual
- Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)
- What is a Week
- What Constitutes IMRT Planning
- Editor's Notes on IMRT

January 2011: Volume #1 2011, Issue 108

- January 11, 2011 CMS Final Rule
- New Codes for 2011
- CERT
- Coding Errors
- Supporting E&M Services

Churchill Update

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