
Southeast Radiology Management e-Alert

February 29, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

~~~~~

### **FEATURED AUDIOSEMINAR - 2008 Radiology Revenue Cycle**

Join Stacie Buck, RHIA, CCS-P, LHRM, RCC, CIC and Andrea Clark RHIA, CCS, CPCH, on March 25, 2008 for **TWO FULL HOURS** of expert guidance on radiology coding and reimbursement. **Stacie & Andrea will discuss radiology coding, compliance and reimbursement issues for physicians, IDTFs, ASC's, and outpatient hospital services.** For additional information and to register for this informative seminar go to:

<http://healthrevenue.webex.com/mw03041/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=healthrevenue>

~~~~~

FEATURED TOPIC OF THE WEEK:

Frequently Asked Questions for Mammography Coding

Q: What differentiates a screening mammogram from a diagnostic mammogram?

Screening mammography is typically performed on asymptomatic patients, those that do not demonstrate any signs or symptoms of breast cancer or other abnormality. During a screening mammogram craniocaudal and mediolateral oblique views are obtained of each breast. On occasion, additional views may be obtained; however, the number of views alone should not dictate whether a screening mammogram or a diagnostic mammogram is coded.

Diagnostic mammography is usually performed when a patient shows signs or symptoms of a breast abnormality. Medicare covers a diagnostic mammogram when the patient has clinical signs or symptoms that indicate possible breast cancer, an abnormal screening mammogram, a personal history of breast cancer, or a personal history of biopsy proven benign breast disease. Medicare also recognizes that there may be instances when a woman is asymptomatic, but based on her history and other factors a diagnostic exam may be appropriate. During the diagnostic mammogram the craniocaudal and mediolateral oblique views are obtained, as well as additional images, as needed. Additional images include mediolateral or lateromedial views. Furthermore, just as a screening mammogram may require additional views, there are

instances when a diagnostic mammogram may not require more than two views of each breast.

Q: Why is there so much confusion as to which exam is most appropriate?

Differing payer guidelines may be one source of confusion coupled with clinical practice guidelines established by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR has issued guidelines regarding when it is clinically appropriate to perform a diagnostic mammogram rather than a screening exam.

The following table summarizes the recommendations of ACR and CMS:

	ACR Recommendation	CMS
Implants	Asymptomatic=diagnostic Symptomatic = diagnostic	Asymptomatic=screening Symptomatic =diagnostic
History of benign-biopsy proven benign disease	Diagnostic	Diagnostic or screening as determined by the referring physician
History of mastectomy	Diagnostic (lifelong)	May revert to screening as determined by the referring physician

Source: American College of Radiology. "Mammography Coding Q&A." ACR Coding Source, May/June 2006.

To add to the confusion, not all Medicare carriers adhere to the CMS policy, nor do other third-party payers. It is important to review the local coverage determinations for your Medicare carrier and any written policies that have been adopted by other third-party payers in determining which exam is most appropriate.

Q: What qualifies a patient as high risk for breast cancer?

According to CMS, a woman is at a higher risk for breast cancer if she:

- Has a personal history of breast cancer (V10.3)
- Has a family history (mother, sister, daughter) of breast cancer (V16.3)
- Had her first baby after age 30 (V15.89)
- Has never had a baby (V15.89)

If a woman has any of these risk factors, code V76.11, Screening mammogram for high-risk patient, should be assigned as the primary diagnosis, and the appropriate code for the risk factor(s) should be assigned as secondary diagnosis codes.

Do you have a question that you would like to see featured in an upcoming issue?
Email your question to: stacie@southeastrad.com

~~~~~

**CMS News & Resources**

**MM5902 - Emergency Update to the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)**

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM5902.pdf>

~~~~~

Take Our Survey!

Have you taken our survey yet? If not please go to: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e28wemz9fcxi73h3/start> to complete the survey. It will only take a few minutes of your time and the results of this survey will help us serve you better.

~~~~~

**On the Web...**

Have questions about nuclear medicine coding and reimbursement? Check out the Society of Nuclear Medicine Coding Corner: <http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=4816&RPID=7259>

~~~~~

Pass It On!

Do you have a friend or colleague that would benefit from receiving our e-Alerts? If so, please feel free to forward a copy of this e-Alert using the FORWARD link at the bottom of this email and enter their email addresses.

~~~~~

**Let Us Know What You Think!**

We want to make sure that the information that we provide to you is relevant and timely. Please feel free to share comments and suggestions with us about our e-Alerts.

~~~~~

Are you getting all of the revenue to which you are entitled?

Due to the sweeping changes in reimbursement for radiology services it is imperative that you receive all of the reimbursement to which you are entitled. If you are not 100% confident with your charge capture and coding consider an external audit. If you are interested in receiving a quote for services please contact us through our website: www.seradmgt.com

~~~~~

**Quick Links...**

[Seminar Schedule](#)

[Tips & Tools](#)


**Contact Information**

~~~~~

Stacie L. Buck, RHIA, CCS-P, LHRM, RCC, CIC
Vice President, Southeast Radiology Management
Email: stacie@southeastrad.com

~~~~~

**Forward email**

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**  
This email was sent to [stacie@southeastrad.com](mailto:stacie@southeastrad.com), by [stacie@southeastrad.com](mailto:stacie@southeastrad.com)  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Southeast Radiology Management | 512 SW St Lucie Crescent | 2nd Floor | Stuart | FL | 34994

Email Marketing by

