
Southeast Radiology Management e-News

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Finally! The new Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) has been approved and published!

Beginning Monday, March 3, 2008, providers (including independent laboratories), physicians, practitioners, and suppliers may use the revised ABN for all situations where Medicare payment is expected to be denied. The revised ABN replaces the existing ABN-G (Form CMS-R-131G), ABN-L (Form CMS-R-131L), and NEMB (Form CMS-20007). CMS will allow a 6-month transition period from the date of implementation for use of the revised form and instructions. Thus, **all providers and suppliers must begin using the revised ABN (CMS-R-131) no later than September 1, 2008.** Visit the following link for the new forms and instructions:
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/02_ABNGABNL.asp#TopOfPage

We will highlight specific changes to the form and its instructions in our next e-Alert.

Missed some issues of our e-News or not able to locate a past issue? Don't worry! We will keep them archived for you. [e-News Archives](#)

Question & Answer

This week we are featuring two questions that were submitted by our subscribers.

Q. When an ultrasound exam is performed for a soft tissue mass, what CPT code should be assigned?

A. The CPT code for a soft tissues mass is dependent upon the anatomical site of the mass. In the Winter 2007 edition of *Clinical Examples in Radiology*, the AMA and ACR provided coding advice for these scenarios. The following is a summary of those recommendations for an ultrasound soft tissue masses:

Anatomical Area	CPT Code
Neck	76536
Upper Extremity	76880
Axilla	76880
Chest Wall	76604-52
Upper Back	76604-52
Lower Back	76705
Abdominal Wall	76705
Pelvic Wall	76857
Buttocks	76857
Penis	76857
Groin	76880
Perineum	76857
Lower Extremity	76880
Other Soft Tissue Areas	76999

It is important to note that in the current issue of the *ACR Radiology Coding Source*, the ACR has stated that when axillary views are taken at the same time as a breast ultrasound, this work is considered part of the breast ultrasound (76645) and should not be coded separately. Code 76880 should be utilized when the ultrasound is performed to evaluate a mass in the upper extremity (axilla) region.

References:

Clinical Examples in Radiology, Winter 2007

ACR Coding Source January/February 2008

Q. What is the appropriate manner in which to code 71035 if done on both the right and left sides?

A. Code 71035 Radiologic examination, chest, special views, may be assigned for each decubitus view. If both the right and left sides are imaged the code may be reported two times with the appropriate modifier--RT, LT or -50 depending upon payer preference.

It is also important to note that this code may be reported in conjunction with the other chest x-ray codes since this code was specifically developed to describe special views.

Reference:

ACR Coding Source January/February 2008

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

CMS Resources

Are you an IDTF? Are you in compliance with the Standards for Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities issued by CMS? Read the following transmittal to find out: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/R234PI.pdf>

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/mw0304/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=healthrevenue>

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

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.

Contact Information

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