Introduction to CPT®, Surgery Guidelines, HCPCS, and Modifiers



The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)

- Copyrighted and maintained by American Medical Association (AMA)
- Used with other codes sets to report healthcare services performed in the United States
- Established as an indexing/coding system to standardize terminology among physicians and other providers



Introduction to CPT®

- Instructions for use of the CPT [®] code book
 - Unlisted procedure
 - CPT * use by any qualified health care professional
 - Parenthetical notes
 - Accuracy and quality of coding
 - · Related guidelines
 - · Parenthetical instructions
 - · Other coding resources



Introduction to CPT®

- The CPT® code set includes three categories of medical nomenclature with descriptors.
 - Category I
 - Category II
 - Category III



Category I CPT® Codes

- Five-digit numerical code, eg 12345
- Over 7,000 service codes, plus titles and modifiers
- Reviewed and updated annually
- Mandatory to report for services and reimbursement



Category I CPT® Codes

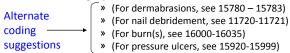
The CPT® coding manual divides Category I CPT® codes into six main section titles:

- Evaluation and Management (99201-99499)
- Anesthesiology (00100-01999)
- Surgery (10021-69990)
- Radiology (70010-79999)
- Pathology and Laboratory (80047-89398)
- Medicine (90281-99607)



Category I CPT® Codes

- Section titles have subsections divided by anatomic location, procedure, condition, or descriptor subheadings.
- The subheadings, structured by CPT® conventions, may list alternate coding suggestions in parenthetical instructions.
- Example:
 - Section: Surgery (10021-69990)
 - · Subsection: Integumentary System
 - · Subheading: Skin, Subcutaneous and Accessory Structures
 - · Category: Debridement





Category I CPT® Codes

Specific guidelines presented at the beginning of each section identify correct coding protocols.

Example:

Section, Surgery

Subsection: Cardiovascular System (33010-37799)

Guideline:

Selective vascular catheterizations should be coded to include introduction and all lesser order selective catheterizations used in the approach (e.g., the description for a selective right middle cerebral artery catheterization includes the introduction and placement catheterization of the right common and internal carotid arteries).



Category II CPT® Codes

- Alphanumeric format, with the letter "F" in the last position, eg, 0001F
- Optional "performance measurement" tracking codes
- Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)
- Example:
 - A physician counsels a patient regarding prescribed Statin therapy for coronary artery disease.
 - Report:
 - 4013F Statin therapy, prescribed (CAD)
 - Appropriate level office visit code (99211–99215).



Category II CPT® Codes

Due to the constant expansion of identifiable measures for quality patient care, the AMA lists criteria on their website:

http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physicianresources/solutions-managing-your-practice/codingbilling-insurance/cpt/about-cpt/category-iicodes.shtml

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRS) http://www.cms.gov/PQRS/



Category III CPT® codes

- Temporary codes
- Alphanumeric structure, with a "T" in the last position, eg, 1234T
- Can be reported alone, without an additional Category I code
- Example
 - A patient has gastric stimulation electrodes implanted in the lesser curvature of the stomach via laparotomy for the treatment of morbid obesity.
 - Report code 0256T which is the implantation of catheterdelivered prosthetic aortic heart valve by endovascular approach.



Category III CPT® codes

- Updated twice a year
 - January 1
 - July 1
- Implemented six months after
- Updates are published on AMA's website: http://www.ama-assn.org/go/CPT



Category III CPT® codes

If a Category III code is available, this code must be reported instead of a Category I unlisted code



The CPT® Coding Manual

- CPT® Sections
- Section Guidelines
- Section Table of Contents
- Notes
- Category II codes (0001F 7025F)
- Category III codes (0019T 0290T)
- Appendices A-N
- Alphabetic Index



CPT® Guidelines

- Referenced in the introduction of each section and subsection of the CPT® manual
- Applicable to the section being referenced
- Define the information necessary for choosing the correct code



CPT® Conventions and Iconography

Used throughout the CPT® manual and include:

- Indentations
- Code symbols iconology
- Parenthetical instructions



Example:

11000 Debridement of extensive eczematous or infected skin; up to 10% of body surface.

Iconography (Symbol) → + 11001

each additional 10% of the body surface (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

Parenthetical Instruction <

(Use 11001 in conjunction with 11000)



CPT® Conventions and Iconography

; The semicolon and the conventional use of indentions

The use of the semicolon divides the description of a code into two parts:

- The "stand-alone" code or the "common procedure" code descriptor.
- The indented descriptor is dependent on the preceding "stand-alone" code



Example:

00160 Anesthesia for procedures on nose and

accessory sinuses; not otherwise specified

00162 radical surgery00164 biopsy, soft tissue

Interpreted:

00160 Anesthesia for procedures on nose and accessory

sinuses; not otherwise specified.

O0162 Anesthesia for procedures on nose and accessory

sinuses; radical surgery

O0164 Anesthesia for procedures on nose and accessory

sinuses; biopsy, soft tissue



CPT® Conventions and Iconography

+ The "add-on" code symbol - Add-on codes are never reported alone

Example:

+43283 Laparoscopy, surgical, esophageal lengthening procedure (eg, Collis gastroplasty or wedge gastroplasty) (List separately in addition to code primary procedure)

(Use 43283 in conjunction with 43280, 43281, 43282)



The red circle - new procedure code

Example:

- 33221 Insertion of pacemaker pulse generator only; with existing multiple leads.
- ▲ The (blue) triangle code revision

Example:

▲ 32440 Removal of lung, pneumonectomy

Appendix B: 32440 Removal of total-lung, pneumonectomy



CPT® Conventions and Iconography

- The facing triangles indicate new and revised text other than the procedure descriptors
- Example:

43882 Revision or removal of gastric neurostimulator

► (For open implantation, revision, or removal of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, lesser curvature [morbid obesity], use 43999) ◀



○ The circle with a line through it - exempt from the use of modifier 51

Example:



CPT® Conventions and Iconography

• The bulls eye - includes moderate sedation

Example:

 43200 Esophagoscopy, rigid or flexible; diagnostic, with or without collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing (separate procedure)



The lightening bolt symbol - codes for vaccines that are pending FDA approval.

Example:

90661 Influenza virus vaccine, derived from cell cultures, subunit, preservative and antibiotic free, for intramuscular use

AMA CPT® "Category I Vaccine Codes" website:

www.ama-assn.org



CPT® Conventions and Iconography

The number symbol – Resequenced, out of numerical order

Example:

46947 Code is out of numerical sequence. See 46700-46947.

46947 Hemorrhoidopexy (for prolapsing internal hemorrhoids) by stapling



CPT® Code Basics

- Review medical documentation thoroughly and gather additional reports
- Reference the alphabetical index for a CPT® numerical code and/or code range.
 - Condition
 - Procedure or service
 - Anatomic site
 - Synonyms, eponyms and abbreviations
- Review the numerical code and/or code range for specific descriptions
- Follow CPT® Guidelines, Conventions and Iconology



CPT® Code Basics

- Index:
 - Ear Waxsee Cerumen
 - Cerumen

Removal......69210

Removal

Cerumen.....69210

Auditory System

69210 Removal impacted cerumen (separate procedure), one or both ears



Separate Procedure

Example:

69210 Removal impacted cerumen (separate procedure), one or both ears

69222 Debridement, mastoidectomy cavity, complex (eg, with anesthesia or more than routine cleaning).



National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI)

- Implemented by CMS
- · Promotes correct coding methodologies
- Controls the improper assignment of codes that results in inappropriate reimbursement

Medicare publishes CCI:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/



Column1/Column 2 Edits							
Column	Column	* = In existence prior to	Effective	Deletion Date *=no	Modifier 0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not		
1	2	1996	Date	data	applicable		
11042	0213T		20100701	*	0		
11042	0216T		20100701	*	0		
11042	0228T		20101001	*	0		
11042	0230T		20101001	*	0		
11042	10060		19960101	*	1		
11042	11000		19960101	*	1		
11042	11001		19960101	19960101	9		
11042	11040	*	19960101	*	1		
11042	11041	*	19960101	*	1		
11042	11100		19970101	*	1		



Sequencing

- Based on RBRVS
 - Physician Work
 - Practice Expense
 - Professional Liability/Malpractice Insurance
- Highest RBRVS listed first.

www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFee-Sched/



CPT[®] Assistant

- Articles answering everyday coding questions
- · CCI bundling information
- E/M billing guidance
- Current code use and interpretation
- Case studies demonstrating practical application of codes
- Anatomical illustration charts and graphs for quick reference
- Information for appealing insurance denials
- Information to validate code usage when audited



CPT® Appendices

Appendix A - Modifiers categorized as:

- Modifiers applicable to CPT® codes
- Anesthesia Physical Status Modifiers
- CPT® Level I Modifiers approved for Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Hospital Outpatient Use
- Level II (HCPCS/National) Modifiers



CPT® Appendices

- Appendix B changes and additions to the CPT® codes from the previous year
- Appendix C clinical E/M examples for different specialties
- Appendix D Add-on Codes



CPT® Appendices

- Appendix E Exempt from the use of modifier 51 (multiple procedures)
- Appendix F Exempt from the use of Modifier 63 (procedures performed on infants less than 4kg)
- Appendix G Include Moderate (Conscious) Sedation



CPT® Appendices

- Appendix H Alphabetic Index of Performance Measures by Clinical Condition or Topic
 - Available only on the AMA website
 - www.ama-assn.org.
- Appendix I Genetic Testing Code Modifiers
 - Molecular laboratory procedures related to genetic testing
 - Use in conjunction with CPT® and HCPCS codes to provide diagnostic granularity of service



CPT® Appendices

- Appendix J Electrodiagnostic Medicine Listing of Sensory, Motor, and Mixed Nerves
 - Assigns each sensory, motor, and mixed nerve with its appropriate nerve conduction study code
 - Table containing maximum number of studies
- Appendix K Product Pending FDA Approval
 - Identified throughout the CPT° book with a lightening bolt symbol
 - For updated vaccine approvals by the FDA, visit the AMA CPT® Category I Vaccine Code information on their website:
 - www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/10902.html



CPT® Appendices

- Appendix L Vascular Families
 - Based on the assumption that a vascular catheterization has a starting point of the aorta
 - Illustrates vascular "families" that emerge from the aorta using brackets to identify the order of vessels.
- Appendix M Crosswalk to Deleted CPT[®] Codes
 - Crosswalks noting the deleted CPT® codes and descriptors from the previous year to the current year.
 - Essential when updating charge masters, charge capture documents, etc.



CPT® Appendices

Appendix N - Summary of Re-sequenced CPT® Codes - This listing is a summary of CPT® codes not appearing in numeric sequence. This allows for existing codes to be relocated to an appropriate location.



CPT® Global Surgical Package

- Includes a standard package of preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative services
- Payer policies may vary
- May be furnished in any service location
 - For example, a hospital, an ambulatory surgical center (ASC), or physician office



CPT® Global Surgical Package

Included in the surgery package and <u>not</u> separately billable:

- Local infiltration, metacarpal/metatarsal/digital block or topical anesthesia
- Subsequent to the decision for surgery, one related E/M encounter on the date immediately prior to or on the date of procedure (including history and physical)
- Immediate postoperative care, including dictating operative notes, talking with the family and other physicians
- Evaluating the patient in the postanesthesia recovery area
- Writing orders
- Typical postoperative follow-up care



nclusive

CMS Global Surgical Package

- Major Surgery: Has a preoperative period of 1 day with 90 days for the postoperative period.
- Minor Surgery: The preoperative period is the day of the procedure with a postoperative period of either 0 or 10 days depending on the procedure.



CMS Global Surgical Package

		GLOB	PRE	INTRA	POST
HCPCS	DESCRIPTION	DAYS	OP	OP	OP
22521	Percut vertebroplasty	10	0.1	0.8	0.1
22522	Percut vertebroplasty	777	(0	0
22523	Percut kyphoplasty t	10	0.1	0.8	0.1
22524	Percut kyphoplasty I	10	0.1	0.8	0.1
22525	Percut kyphoplasty a	777	(0	0
22526	ldet single level	10	0.1	0.8	0.1
22527	ldet 1 or more levels	<i>777</i>	(0	0
22532	Lat thorax spine fusion	90	0.1	0.69	0.21
22533	Lat lumbar spine fusi	90	0.1	0.69	0.21
22534	Lat thor/lumb addl se	777	(0	0
22548	Neck spine fusion	90	0.1	0.69	0.21
22551	Neck spine fuse&rem	90	0.1	0.69	0.21
22552	Addl neck spine fusion	777	(0	0

Source: www.cms.gov, RVU12A



CMS Global Surgical Package

- MMM and XXX
 - Global concept does not apply
- YYY
 - Subject to individual pricing
- ZZZ
 - Always included in the global period

Global period days for Medicare patients may be accessed on the CMS website:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pfslookup/02 PFSsearch.asp



Global Package Modifiers

- 54 Surgical care only
- 55 Postoperative management only
- 56 Preoperative management only

		GLOB	PRE		INTRA	POST
HCPCS	DESCRIPTION	DAYS	OP		OP	OP
22521	Percut vertebroplasty	10)	0.1	0.8	0.1
22548	Neck spine fusion	90)	0.1	0.69	0.21



Global Package Modifiers

- 24 Unrelated E/M by the same physician during a postoperative period
- 25 Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure or other service
- 57 Decision for surgery



Global Package Modifiers

- 58 Staged or related procedure or service by the same physician during the postoperative period
- 78 Unplanned return to the operating/ procedure room by the same physician following initial procedure for a related procedure during the postoperative period
- 79 Unrelated procedure or service by the same physician during the postoperative period



Global Package Modifiers

- 58 Staged or related procedure or service by the same physician during the postoperative period
- Example:
 - March 2 Breast Biopsy
 - March 6 Modified radical mastectomy
 - Add modifier 58 to the modified radical mastectomy



Global Package Modifiers

- 78 Unplanned return to the operating/ procedure room by the same physician following initial procedure for a related procedure during the postoperative period
- Example:
 - January Gastric bypass (90 day global period)
 - March Incisional hernia on the bypass incision, taken back to the operating room for incisional hernia repair.
 - Add modifier 78 to the hernia repair



Global Package Modifiers

- 79 Unrelated procedure or service by the same physician during the postoperative period
- Example:
 - January Amputated DIP joint (finger)
 - March Below the knee amputation
 - Add modifier 79 to the below the knee amputation



Surgical Modifiers

- 22 Increased Procedural Service
- 50 Bilateral Procedure
- 51 Multiple Procedures
- 52 Reduced Services
- 53 Discontinued Procedure



Modifier 22 - Increased Procedural Service

- Services required to perform the procedure are significantly greater than usually reported with the procedure
- · Bill with the operative report



Modifier 22 - Increased Procedural Service

Example:

A patient has a colonoscopy and a polyp is removed. The removal of the polyp causes excessive bleeding and an extra 30 minutes is spent controlling the bleeding. Modifier 22 would be added to the surgical code and the operative report and/or letter would be sent with the claim to the payer.



Modifier 50 - Bilateral Procedure

Check with payers on how to submit:

- One line item with modifier 50

Example: 20610-50

- Two line items with modifier 50 on the second

code

Example: 20610

20610-50

Two lines using RT/LT

Example: 20610-RT

20610-LT



Modifier 50 - Bilateral Procedure

- Pay close attention to code descriptions.
- Some codes specify 'unilateral' and include a parenthetical statement.

Example: 50592 – Ablation, <u>1 or more</u> renal tumor(s), percutaneous, unilateral, radiofrequency

 Some codes say 1 or both.
 Example: 69210 – Removal impacted cerumen (separate procedure), 1 or both ears



Modifier 51 - Multiple Procedures

- More than one procedure performed at the same session by the same provider
- Not used on E/M services, Physical Medicine or Rehabilitation Services, the provision of supplies such as vaccines or codes designated as 'add-on' codes.

Example:

An orthopedic surgeon performs a closed treatment of a femoral shaft fracture on the left leg and a closed treatment of a right knee dislocation during the same operative session. It would be coded as 27500-LT and 27552-51-RT.



Modifier 52 - Reduced Services

- · Procedure partially reduced at physician discretion
- · Service not completed in its entirety
- Example:

43770 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric restrictive device

(For individual component placement, report 43770 with modifier 52)



Modifier 53 - Discontinued Services

- Procedure terminated due to:
 - Extenuating circumstances
 - Circumstances threatening the well-being of the patient
- Do not use:
 - Elective cancellation prior to induction of anesthesia

Example:

A patient who is having a surgical procedure and after the administration of general anesthetic exhibits unstable vital signs. At the recommendation of the anesthesiologist the surgeon decides to terminate the procedure.



Modifier 59 - Distinct Procedural Service

- Procedures not normally reported together
- Different Session or Patient Encounter
- Different Procedure or Surgery
- Different Site or Organ System
- Separate Incision/Excision
- Separate Lesion



Modifier 59 - Distinct Procedural Service

Example:

A patient had a colonoscopy and a lesion is removed proximal to the splenic flexure. During the same colonoscopy a biopsy is taken of a different lesion. Both codes are reportable using modifier 59 on the second procedure.



Modifier 63 - Procedures Performed on Infants Less than 4kg

- Increased work intensity
 - Temperature control
 - Obtaining IV access
 - Maintenance of homeostasis
- Read the "Note" in the description to make sure you're using the modifier correctly



Modifier 76 - Repeat Procedure or Service by Same Physician

Example:

A patient who goes to the Emergency Room with a trauma to the chest. A two-view chest x-ray is taken that shows a pneumothorax. After a chest tube is placed a repeat two-view chest x-ray is taken to verify the placement of the chest tube. You would report 71020 and 71020-76.



Modifier 77 - Repeat Procedure or Service by Another Physician

Example:

A patient who sees the family practitioner for chest pain and the physician does an EKG and then refers the patient to a cardiologist. The patient is able to see the cardiologist on the same day and the cardiologist performs a repeat EKG. The second EKG would be reported with modifier 77.



Multiple Surgeon Modifiers

- 62 Two Surgeons
 - Work together as primary surgeons
 - Perform distinct parts of a procedure
 - Dictate op report of their distinct part
 - Each will submit the same code and append modifier 62
- 66 Surgical Team
 - Highly complex procedures
 - Require differently specialties
 - Modifier 66 appended to procedures coded by the surgical team



Assistant Surgeon Modifiers

- 80 Assistant Surgeon
 - Assistant surgeon present for entire or substantial portion of the operation
 - Reports the same surgical procedure with modifier 80 appended
- 81 Minimum Assistant Surgeon
 - Circumstances present that require the services of an asst surgeon for a short time. Minimal assistance.
 - Reports the same surgical procedure with modifier 81 appended
- 82 Assistant Surgeon (when qualified resident surgeon not available)
 - Used in a teaching hospital that employs residents
 - No residents available and another surgeon is used



Ancillary Modifiers

- Global a procedure containing both a technical and a professional component
- Modifier 26 Professional Component
- Modifier TC Technical Component



Ancillary Modifiers

Example:

A patient comes to the office with wheezing and congestion. The physician takes a 2-view chest X-ray using his or her own equipment and sends it out to be read by a radiologist. The office would code 71020-TC for the use of the equipment (technical)

- The radiologist would bill 71020-26 for his/her interpretation and report (professional service).
- If the office took the X-ray and also did the interpretation and report, they would code 71020 – without any modifiers – to indicate they did the global service.....both the technical and professional components



Laboratory Modifiers

- 90 Reference (Outside) Laboratory
 - Used to bill for lab services purchased from an outside lab
- 91 Repeat Clinical Diagnostic Lab Test
 - Not used to confirm results
 - Not used to repeat a test due to equipment malfunction
- 92 Alternative Lab Platform Testing
 - Single use
 - HIV testing



Anesthesia Modifiers

- 23 Unusual Anesthesia
- 47 Anesthesia by Surgeon
- Physical Status Modifiers



- Level I HCPCS is CPT[®]
 - Maintained by AMA
 - Identify services and procedures
- Level II HCPCS
 - Maintained by CMS
 - Identify products, supplies, and services not included in CPT[®]



HCPCS Level II

- A Codes ~ Transportation Services, Med/Surg Supplies, Admin
- B Codes ~ Enteral and Parenteral Therapy
- C Codes ~ Pass-Through Items
- D Codes ~ Dental Procedures
- E Codes ~ Durable Medical Equipment
- G Codes ~ Procedures/Professional Services
- H Codes ~ Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Services
- J Codes ~ Drugs Admin Other Than Oral Method/Chemotherapy Drugs
- K Codes ~ DME Supplies
- L Codes ~ Orthotic/Prosthetic Procedures
- M Codes ~ Medical Services
- P Codes ~ Lab/Path
- Q Codes ~ Temporary Codes
- R Codes ~ Diagnostic Radiology
- S Codes ~ Temporary National Codes (Non-Medicare)
- T Codes ~ Nat'l Codes for State Medicaid Agencies
- V Codes ~ Vision/Hearing Services



- Types of Level II Codes
 - Permanent National Codes maintained by the CMS HCPCS Workgroup
 - Responsible for additions, deletions, revisions
 - Updated annually
 - Temporary National Codes maintained by the CMS HCPCS Workgroup
 - Responsible for additions, deletions, revisions
 - Updated quarterly



HCPCS Level II

Types of Temporary Codes

- G codes
 - Professional health care procedures/services with no CPT[®] codes
 - Example:
 - G0412 G0415 unilateral or bilateral
 - 27215 27218 unilateral only, use modifier 50 for bilateral
- H codes
 - Used by State Medicaid Agencies for mental health services such as alcohol and drug treatment services



Dental Codes

- Current Dental Terminology or CDT[®]
- Separate category of national codes
- Used for billing dental procedures and supplies
- Copyright by the American Dental Association
- Additions, deletions and revisions made by the ADA



HCPCS Level II

Coding Conventions

- Bullet indicates new code
- Triangle indicates code description has been revised
- X with line through code and code description means code has been deleted
- Color Coded Symbols



Format:

- Alphabetic Index
- Tabular Index
 - · Divided into different alpha-numeric sections
- Table of Contents
 - List of alpha sections with code ranges and page numbers



HCPCS Level II

Appendices:

- Level II modifiers
 - May be used with some CPT® codes, i.e., LT/RT
- Table of Drugs
 - Names of Drugs, dosage, delivery method, J code
- Medicare References
- Jurisdiction List
- Deleted Code Crosswalk



HCPCS Level II Modifiers

• Two alpha characters:

Example: RT – right

LT - left

One alpha and one numeric character:

Example:

F1 – Left hand, second digit

F2 – Left hand, third digit

F3 – Left hand, fourth digit

F4 – Left hand, fifth digit



HCPCS Level II Table of Drugs

- Alphabetized by drug name
- Dose/Unit
- Route of administration
- Code(s)



- Finding a Code
 - Depo Provera 150mg IM for contraception
- Two ways to find it
 - Table of Drugs
 - Alphabetic Index
- J1055 Depo Provera 150 mg IM



HCPCS Level II

- Finding a Code
 - Orthopedic Shoes
- Two ways to find it
 - Table of Contents
 - Alphabetic Index
- L3204 High-top orthopedic shoe with pronator for an infant



HCPCS

- Fewer codes than CPT® and ICD-9-CM
- Smaller textbook

Care still needs to be taken when making a code selection



The End

