

July 2019

# Information You Need

Exclusive for AAPC Book and AAPC Coder Purchasers

## Hundreds of New ICD-10-CM Codes Effective Oct. 1

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the ICD-10-CM code descriptions, tables and index, and addendum for fiscal year 2020. There are 273 additions, 21 deletions, and 30 revisions, effective Oct. 1, 2019, which will increase the code set from 71,932 to 72,184 diagnoses. [Learn More »](#)

## AMA on Evaluation and Management Guidelines for 2021

Medical coders who were unsure what documentation non-Medicare payers would expect in light of the Patients Over Paperwork Initiative now have more to go on. The initiative reduced documentation requirements for outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) services (CPT® 99201-99215) provided to Medicare Part B patients beginning in 2021. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) indicated in their initiative that, although history and exam are an important part of the encounter documentation, they would only use medical decision making (MDM) or time to determine the level of encounter. [Learn More »](#)

## TAVR Rules Changed by CMS

Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) national coverage policy rules have been streamlined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as the minimally invasive intravenous procedure becomes more commonplace. However, it is still considered a clinical trial because of its relatively recent development. [Learn More »](#)

## Assistant at Surgery Modifiers Require Specific Documentation



Payers no longer consider the assistant surgeon's name in the header only as sufficient documentation. They want the body of the operative note to indicate what the assistant surgeon contributed to the surgery. They also want documentation in the operative report to explain why an assistant surgeon was used at a teaching institution rather than a qualified resident. [Learn More »](#)

## Radiology Coding Audit Quick Tips

A medical coding audit is a process where an auditor samples coded claims to provide analysis and feedback to the provider and coding teams. Here's 11 items for you need to verify to be sure your radiology auditing is up to par. [Learn More »](#)

## ASP Drug Pricing Files July 2019 Update

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) just released the updated 2019 ASP drug pricing files for July, available at CMS.gov. These files contain the payment amounts to be used to pay for Part B covered drugs in the third quarter. Updated July 2019 payment limits are also available; effective July 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019. [Learn More »](#)

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AAPC, 2233 S Presidents Dr., Suite F, Salt Lake City, Utah 84120 | 800-626-2633