

Happy New Year**Total knee arthroplasty now outpatient procedure**

Many of you may have noticed that under the OPPS final ruling for 2018 (**Federal Register** / Vol. 82, No. 217 / Monday, November 13, 2017 / Rules and Regulations) that total knee arthroplasty 27447 has been removed from the 'Inpatient only' list. This now means that it can be done on an outpatient basis. Surgeons need to be aware that if they are wanting a given patient to still have it as an inpatient they will have to document the medical necessity as to why.

In that final ruling it was proposed that several other arthroplasties and hemiarthroplasties now be removed from the inpatient only list as outlined in Table 77 of that Nov 13th, 2017 Federal Register:

TABLE 77—PROCEDURES REQUESTED BY COMMENTERS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE CY 2018 INPATIENT ONLY LIST CY 2018

PT code CY 2018 long descriptor

23470 Arthroplasty, glenohumeral joint; hemiarthroplasty.

23472 Arthroplasty, glenohumeral joint; total shoulder (glenoid and proximal humeral replacement (eg, total shoulder)).

27125 Hemiarthroplasty, hip, partial (eg, femoral stem prosthesis, bipolar arthroplasty).

27130 Arthroplasty, acetabular and proximal femoral prosthetic replacement (total hip arthroplasty), with or without autograft or allograft.

27702 Arthroplasty, ankle; with implant (total ankle).

27703 Arthroplasty, ankle; revision, total ankle.

But in the final comments the only Orthopedic code removed from the inpatient only list in Table 78 ended up being 27447. Right now it appears that the total knee 27447 is not on the 2018 ASC approved list (see Addendum AA --Final ASC Covered Surgical Procedures for CY 2018 (Including Surgical Procedures for Which Payment is Packaged)- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ASCPayment/ASC-Regulations-and-Notices-Items/CMS-1678-FC.html>)

As you can well imagine, CMS is asking for comments to see if these procedures should be allowed in an ASC setting. There is the potential that by 2019 the only inpatient arthroplasties could be those for patients with comorbidities and the surgeons providing the medical necessity as to why they must be done in an inpatient setting.

Physical Therapy Exceptions

We are still waiting to see what the Government will do since the PT/OT exceptions terminated Dec 31st, 2017. That means for 2018, there will be no exceptions once the patient reaches their therapy caps (\$2010) they are now liable for the full therapy services.

OIG Work Plan updated

You will want to check out <https://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/workplan/index.asp> - you can go to the page that has the updates <https://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/workplan/updates.asp> regarding information for January 2018. One of the items is “Questionable Billing for Off-the-Shelf Orthotic Devices”

“Since 2014, claims for three off-the-shelf orthotic devices (L0648, L0650, and L1833) have grown by 97 percent and allowed charges have grown by 116 percent, reaching \$349 million in 2016. The Social Security Act states that no payment may be made under Medicare Part B for any expenses incurred for items that "are not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member." A Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) has identified improper payment rates as high as 79 percent for L0648, 88 percent for L0650, and 91 percent for L1833 within its jurisdiction. A top concern of the MAC is a lack of documentation of medical necessity in patients' medical records. We will examine factors associated with questionable billing for the three orthotic devices, and describe the billing trends for these devices from 2014â€“2016. Specifically, we will evaluate the extent to which Medicare beneficiaries are being supplied these orthotic devices without an encounter with the referring physician within 12 months prior to their orthotic claim and will analyze billing trends on a nation-wide scale.”

and also “OIG Toolkit to Identify Patients at Risk of Opioid Misuse”

“In the July 2017 data brief, Opioids in Medicare Part D: Concerns About Extreme Use and Questionable Prescribing (OEI-02-17-00250), OIG found that a half-million Medicare Part D beneficiaries received high amounts of opioids in 2016 and that nearly 90,000 of these beneficiaries were at serious risk of opioid misuse or overdose. As a follow up to the data brief, OIG plans to release a toolkit to assist public and private stakeholders in addressing the opioid epidemic. The toolkit will provide information on how OIG analyzed a large dataset of opioid claims to produce patient-level opioid data, as well as how it calculated Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) levels for these patients.”

If you have issues or concerns that you would like further input on, please feel free to send emails to info@margievaught.com. If you would like to schedule any audios or live presentations, please feel free to contact me.

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Check out below for upcoming Audios and Live Presentations

Upcoming Audios and Workshops 2018

Jan 10th, 2018 – Audio – Physical therapy updates and coding – Sponsored by www.audioeducator.com - <https://www.audioeducator.com/orthopedics/physical-therapy-coding-updates.html>

Jan 23rd, 2018 – Audio – Understanding what documentation is needed for Spinal Coding – Sponsored by - <http://www.codingbooks.com/>

Feb 6th, 2018 – Audio – Spinal Coding are you doing it correctly – Sponsored by www.audioeducator.com

Feb 22nd, 2018 – Live- Alabama BONES (ALAOE) – contact roneal@aonline.net

March 13th, 2018 – Audio – ICD-10 Coding for Fractures – Sponsored by www.audioeducator.com

April 10th, 2018 – National AAPC – Orlando Florida – Breakout sessions on Spine and shoulder – sponsored by www.aapc.com - <http://www.healthcon.com/>

April 11th, 2018 – Audio – Hands, wrist and fingers surgical procedures and coding – sponsored by www.audioeducator.com

April 14-17th, 2018 – Annual AAOE – Orlando Florida - http://s4.goeshow.com/aaoe/annual/2018/registration_information.cfm

April 19th, 2018 – AmSurg New Orleans sponsored by AmSurg contact mblock@amsurg.com

May 9th, 2018 – Audio – Ankle/feet/toes understanding the procedures and coding – sponsored by www.audioeducator.com

June 20th, 2018 – Audio – Understanding shoulder procedures and coding – sponsored by www.audioeducator.com