



May/June 2018

Volume 7 Issue 5/6

How to bill and report for Arthroscopic Superior Capsular Reconstruction

This is a reminder if your surgeon is doing ASCR for irreparable rotator cuff tear, CPT April 2017 Assistant clearly states it should be reported using the unlisted 29999. It would not be appropriate to report the capsular repair code 29806 as they are treating rotator cuff issues. By using the unlisted code, it will help to show tracking and the need for a new code.

Column One and Column Two Codes

If you are frustrated with the NCCI columns when the code with the higher value is the column two code and thus gets denied if the two are billed together? You are not alone but you need to reach out to NCCI and ask for the columns to change. In a recently requested change NCCI confirmed that codes **29881 and 29882** will 'switch' columns effective **July 1, 2018**. Code 29882 will now be the column two code. So, if they are doing a medial meniscal repair (29882) along with a lateral meniscectomy (29881) you will need to append the modifier 59 to 29881.

Unfortunately, NCCI/CMS does not feel the need to change the columns for codes 22853/22854 and 22845-22847. They feel that with the added guidelines under both Chapters four and eight allowing the codes to be reported together **IF** not integral to each other, with modifier 59 being appended the instrumentation codes 22845-22847. In the updated guidelines effective Jan 1st,2018 it states:

“CPT codes 22853 and 22854 describe insertion of interbody biomechanical device(s) into intervertebral disc space(s). Integral anterior instrumentation to anchor the device to the intervertebral disc space when performed is not separately reportable. It is a misuse of anterior instrumentation CPT codes (e.g., 22845-22847) to report this integral anterior instrumentation. However, additional anterior instrumentation (i.e., plate, rod) unrelated to anchoring the device may be reported separately appending an NCCI-associated modifier such as modifier 59.”

Some additional CPT Coding Updates

When and how should you use 27606 – Tenotomy Percutaneous Achilles’ tendon under general anesthesia – Most of the time you will see reference to a 3-incision technique. However, those ‘incisions’ are technically stab/percutaneous in nature.

An example would be:

"Utilizing a 15 blade, stab incision was performed proximal to the Achilles insertion and the cut was angled medially. A second stab incision was performed proximal to the first and angled laterally. A third stab incision was then performed proximal to the second and angled medially. The ankle was then gently dorsiflexed until the Achilles lengthened. Direct palpation confirmed that the Achilles remained in continuity”

CPT code 77071 and POS issues

I have been receiving emails from different offices asking if they can report code 77071 Stressing of the joint during a surgical procedure. Most of the time the stressing is being performed in the ankle to check for widening of the ankle mortise and verify syndesmosis issues. In checking with the AMA, they stated “if the patient is under general anesthesia for the open treatment of the distal tibiofibular joint then any manipulation required to complete the procedure, as in testing joint stability post internal fixation, would be inclusive of the surgical procedure and not reported separately, as indicated in the CPT Assistant references (CPT Assistants January 2016 and March 2011). Specifically, the appropriate reporting of manual application of joint stress described by code 77071 is a separate procedure typically performed in order to obtain a minimum of two radiographic images, to confirm joint stability at the maximum degree, and is typically performed without anesthesia.”

Are you meeting FDA approve for 'stem cell' therapy?

If you are telling patients that you offer stem cell therapy, beware that the FDA is watching and searching. In a recent article in the NYTimes they stated that they are on the look-out for 'rouge' stem cell clinics. Also remember that bone marrow aspiration is NOT the same as bone grafting. In the article they are quoted as saying Orthopedic issues may take a back burner, but this article is clearly a warning to make sure you are compliant with FDA issues.

“The agency acknowledged the difficulty in pursuing rogue clinics and suggested that consumers check up on stem cell clinics before receiving treatment.

Dr. Peter Marks, director of the F.D.A.'s center for biologics evaluation and research, said that the agency would continue to pursue unscrupulous clinics, but that those performing orthopedic procedures — injecting the fat-derived cells into joints — would take a back seat to clinics that inject or infuse cells into the central nervous system or bloodstream.

At the time, Dr. Marks said: “There are hundreds and hundreds of these clinics. We simply don't have the bandwidth to go after all of them at once.”

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/09/health/fda-stem-cell-clinics.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fhealth&action=click&contentCollection=health®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=9&pgtype=sectionfront>)

The newsletters will now start coming out quarterly and if there is 'breaking' updates that need to come out sooner, then special editions will be sent. So the next newsletter will be around September.

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.

Margie Scalley Vaught, CPC, COC, CPC-I, CCS-P, MCS-P, ACS-EM, ACS-OR
Auditing, Coding, Documentation and Compliance Consulting

Healthcare Consultant

scalley123@aol.com, info@margievaught.com

fax 413-674-7668

www.margievaught.com

for workshops and audio <http://www.margievaught.com/calendar/index.cfm>

Want to receive a monthly newsletter - signup on margievaught.com

Check out below for upcoming Audios and Live Presentations

Upcoming Audios and Workshops 2018

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

May 23rd, 2018 – Audio – Hip and Knee Arthroplasties – sponsored by DecisionHealth - <http://www.codingbooks.com/ympda052318>

May 30th, 2018 – Audio – ICD-10 Coding for Fractures – All kinds – Sponsored by www.audioeducator.com

June 14th, 2018 – Audio - [Keep Your Ortho Practice Ahead of Oct. 1 ICD-10-CM Code Changes](#) – sponsored by DecisionHealth - <http://www.codingbooks.com/a2680>

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

July 11th, 2018 – Audio – Coding and documenting hip and knee procedures – sponsored by www.audioeducator.com

October 15th – 17th, 2018- 18th Annual Advanced Orthopedic Symposium – Hilton Orlando, FL - sponsored by DecisionHealth - <http://www.codingbooks.com/specialty-coding>