

April 2021

Information You Need

Exclusive for AAPC Book & Codify by AAPC Purchasers

Is It an Audio-Only Phone Call or a Virtual Check-In?

For providers billing communication technology-based services (CTBS) with no video capabilities — that is, an audio-only phone call — the coding options are either virtual check-ins or telephone e-visits.

Many practices have misinterpreted the guidelines and have been billing audio-only services incorrectly as office visits. These practices may now be under scrutiny by the Office of Inspector General (OIG); audio-only CTBS is now on the OIG's 2021 Work Plan. [Learn More »](#)

April Updates Bring HCPCS Changes

A second-quarter update to the HCPCS Level II code set used for reporting products, supplies, and services adds 23 codes. Additionally, six codes are revised and 12 are discontinued, effective April 1, 2021. There are also two codes with changes to Medicare coverage. [Learn More »](#)

AMA Releases 2021 CPT Errata and Technical Corrections

Every year we take direction from the most recent CPT® code book, but it's important to recognize that it doesn't have the final say on how to document and code evaluation and management (E/M) visits. For the latest guidance, you need the 2021 CPT® Errata and Technical Corrections [Learn More »](#)

CMS Increases COVID-19 Vaccine Admin Fee

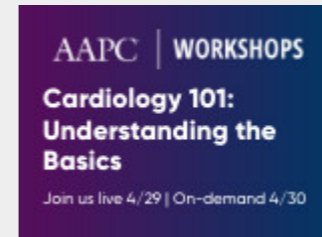
The Medicare payment amount for administering the COVID-19 vaccine is increased, effective March 15, 2021. The national average for physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, and other immunizers to administer the COVID-19 vaccine is now approximately \$12 more for the administration of single-dose vaccines and \$35 more for the administration of two-dose vaccines. Actual rates depend on facility type and geographic location. [Learn More »](#)

AAPC Social Hour: Pro Tips

Hot topics discussed during the AAPC Social Hour on Facebook Live, March 24, 11 a.m. MT included HEALTHCON 2021 and code book and exam prep do's and don'ts. Joining moderator and AAPC Social Media Manager Alex McKinley was Raemarie Jimenez, CPC, CIC, CPB, CPMA, CPPM, CPC-I, CDEO, CANPC, CRHC, CCS, senior vice president of products at AAPC. [Learn More »](#)

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