

December 2020

# Information You Need

Exclusive for AAPC Book & Codify by AAPC Purchasers

## Master 2021 CPT® Changes With This Expert Overview

CPT® 2021 includes 206 new codes, 69 revised codes, and 54 deleted codes. All sections of CPT® received changes in codes and guidelines, except Anesthesia. The most significant changes are to codes for office/other outpatient evaluation and management (E/M), prolonged services, breast repair and reconstruction, cardiovascular shunting procedures, and COVID-19 testing. [Learn More »](#)

## CMS Releases ICD-10 MS-DRG V38.1

The ICD-10 Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Group (MS-DRG) V38.1 Grouper Software, Definitions Manual Table of Contents, and the Definitions of Medicare Code Edits V38.1 manual are now available. Use this version for proper DRG assignment for hospital discharges on or after Jan. 1, 2021. [Learn More »](#)

## MPFSDB October Update Clarifies Code Payment

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued changes to the October update of the 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB) that you do not want to ignore. Among the revisions relayed in MLN Matters 11939, issued Oct. 27, are the anticipated payment instructions for a recently-added CPT® code. [Learn More »](#)

## Medicare Finalizes COVID-19 Vaccine Payment Amounts

The government is working at warp speed to make a COVID-19 vaccine available in the United States. To that end, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published an interim final rule with comment period (IFC) to implement Section 3713 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which established Medicare Part B coverage and payment for COVID-19 vaccine and administration. [Learn More »](#)

## 10 Ways to Improve Medical Coding and Billing Accuracy

Medical coding and billing errors can cause a host of problems. Denied or partially paid claims are costly in dollars and cents to be sure, but they can also cost you in lost time, delayed payments, lower quality patient care, angry patients, loss of reputation, and, in extreme cases, audits and fines — all of which can put your medical practice at risk. [Learn More »](#)

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