

March 2019

Information You Need

Exclusive for AAPC Book and AAPC Coder Purchasers

HIPAA Enforcement has Banner Year

If you thought the Department of Health and Human Services' loosening of several Obamacare rules indicated less HIPAA enforcement, think again. The agency's Office of Civil Rights settled \$28.7 million worth of HIPAA violations in 2018, up 22% over the previous record year. [Read More >](#)

Annual Checkup: Medicare Policies for Code Updates

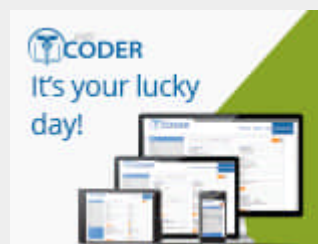
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released maintenance updates for several National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) to reflect recent code changes. Here's a quick look at the latest NCD updates. [Read More >](#)

New Rules Issued for Modifiers 59, XE, XS, XP, and XU

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a policy change modification to the claims processing logic for Modifier 59 Distinct procedural service (and the optional patient-relationship modifiers XE, XS, XP, and XU). [Read More >](#)

Appropriate Use Criteria Program is Full Steam Ahead

CMS has been establishing the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) program. Regulations finalized for 2019 inch the industry one step closer to requiring ordering and furnishing professionals to obtain



preauthorization for advanced diagnostic imaging services and report the required information on outpatient claims. [Read More >](#)

New Medicare Enrollment Application

Physicians and non-physician practitioners may immediately begin using the new version of the CMS-855I Medicare Enrollment Application. Medicare Administrative Contractors will accept the previous version of the application (7/2011) through April 30, and then require you to use the new version (12/18). [Read More >](#)

Big CLIA Changes Proposed for 2020

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is proposing to change the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) for 2020 that could affect your bottom line.

[Read More >](#)

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