

October 2020

Information You Need

Exclusive for AAPC Book and AAPC Coder Purchasers

99000: The Little Code with Big Issues

For a code that has no relative value units (RVUs) and commands \$0.00 in Medicare nonfacility fees, 99000 *Handling and/or conveyance of specimen for transfer from the office to a laboratory* has received a disproportionate amount of attention of late. [Learn More »](#)

AMA Approves 2 New CPT Codes for COVID-19

The American Medical Association (AMA) announced, Sept. 8, two new Category I CPT® codes to meet the changing needs of the healthcare industry brought about by the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). The codes were approved by the CPT® Editorial Panel for immediate use during the PHE for COVID-19. [Learn More »](#)

Expedited Release of 4 New Codes for COVID-19 Testing

Over the past several months, as the COVID-19 pandemic has raged on, the American Medical Association (AMA) has expedited the approval and release of CPT® codes to enable reporting of the various testing methodologies that have become available. The CPT® Editorial Panel convened a special meeting to approve additional codes specific to laboratory testing for COVID-19 and published four new codes last month. These CPT® codes address the ongoing need to report coronavirus testing and include two new Category I codes and two Proprietary Laboratory Analyses (PLA) codes. [Learn More »](#)

Payers Ending Telehealth Expansion Coverage

The COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) continues, but will expanded telehealth coverage and cost sharing waivers? Some health insurers will stop paying for expanded telehealth services as soon as Oct. 1. Patient cost-sharing may resume soon, as well. In the 2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing changes to expand certain telehealth flexibilities permanently. [Learn More »](#)

Confirm Breast Cancer Screening Coding

Every October, we wear pink and participate in charity events to show our support for breast cancer awareness. It is also a great time to review your coding practices for mammography and other breast imaging to ensure you are following current guidelines. [Learn More »](#)

See What's New for ICD-10-CM 2021

Make sure your diagnosis coding is up to date by reviewing this chapter-by-chapter summary of the changes effective October 1. [Learn More »](#)



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