

November 4, 2009

Dear TSA Member,

It was brought to the TSA's attention that Medicare began to erroneously deny acute pain blocks when performed in conjunction with lines after their April 1, 2009 system upgrade. Upon research we found that this error was corrected by CMS on October 1st and that they are accepting appeals for claims denied from April 1st through September 30th. They are not automatically reconsidering the claims; therefore, each practice will have to send in appeals for reprocessing. A few Texas anesthesia groups have already appealed their denied claims and the claims have been reconsidered and paid correctly by Medicare.

Following is a spreadsheet of the CMS CCI edits. The code in Column 1 is the primary code (in this instance, the lines). The code in Column 2 is the procedure that is considered to be bundled into the line (all pain codes are listed). The effective date is when the bundling went into effect and, as you can see, the deletion date is the same – this removes the erroneous CCI edit. The modifier column provides information as to allowing override of the bundling edit but using the 59 modifier. If there is a "1", the 59 modifier is allowed to be used to signify that the block was a separately identifiable procedure and should be allowed in addition to the line. A "0" means that you cannot override the edit. A "9" is there to designate an entry that exists solely because of the error and has been corrected. So, in example, a single shot epidural is no longer bundled into the central line and will be paid without the need of a modifier while an epidural catheter can be placed in conjunction with a line but will need a 59 modifier to be considered for payment.

You may want to consider reviewing any claims with a line and block code from April 1-September 30, 2009 and resubmit them to Medicare with the appropriate modifiers (as indicated) for reconsideration.

Sincerely,
David E. Bryant, MD
Chair, TSA Economics Committee

Column 1	Column 2	Effective Date	Deletion Date *=no data	Modifier 0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not applicable
36556	62311	20090401	20090401	9
36556	62318	20040101	20091001	1
36556	62319	20040101	20091001	1
36556	64400	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64402	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64405	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64408	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64410	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64412	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64413	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64415	20040101	20091001	1
36556	64416	20040101	20091001	1
36556	64417	20040101	20091001	1
36556	64418	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64420	20090401	20090401	9

36556	64421	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64425	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64430	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64435	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64445	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64446	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64447	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64448	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64449	20090401	20090401	9
36556	64450	20040101	20091001	1
36620	62310	20090401	20090401	9
36620	62311	20090401	20090401	9
36620	62318	20021001	20091001	1
36620	62319	20021001	20091001	1
36620	64400	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64402	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64405	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64408	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64410	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64412	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64413	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64415	20021001	20091001	1
36620	64416	20030101	20091001	1
36620	64417	20021001	20091001	1
36620	64418	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64420	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64421	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64425	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64430	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64435	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64445	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64446	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64447	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64448	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64449	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64450	20021001	20091001	1
36620	64470	20021001	20091001	1
36620	64475	20021001	20091001	1
36620	64479	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64483	20090401	20090401	9
36620	64505	20090401	20090401	1
36620	64508	20090401	20090401	1
36620	64510	20090401	20090401	1
36620	64517	20090401	20090401	1
36620	64520	20090401	20090401	1
36620	64530	20090401	20090401	1
36620	64550	20090401	20090401	9