



IMM INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

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Revised Coding Information for Removal of Benign Skin Lesions

This article replaces the Listserv article distributed on April 13, 2009. These instructions apply to providers who submit Part B claims.

Recent medical review of documentation has indicated an educational need with regards to the reporting of removal of lesions. The local coverage determination (LCD) and coding article (SIA) for Removal of Benign Skin Lesions (L27362/A47397) will be revised on June 1, 2009 and will include revised guidelines.

If a benign skin lesion excision was performed, report the applicable CPT code, even if final pathology demonstrates a malignant or carcinoma in situ diagnosis for the lesion removed. The final pathology does not change the CPT code of the procedure performed. An ambiguous but low suspicion lesion would be reported as a benign lesion (codes 11400-11446) reflecting the procedure that was performed. A moderate-to-high suspicion lesion may be reported as a malignancy (codes 11600-11646), if the appropriate excision was performed.

To report removal of lesions of uncertain morphology, prior to identification of the specimen, report ICD-9-CM code 239.2 (neoplasms of unspecified nature, bone, soft tissue, and skin), or ICD-9-CM code 709.9 (unspecified disorder of skin and subcutaneous tissue) since proper coding requires the highest level of diagnosis known at the time the procedure was performed." (ICD-9-CM code 709.9 will be added to the list of payable diagnoses in the LCD.)

Providers who submit claims to Medicare for excision of lesions should become familiar with the revised LCD which became effective March 1, 2009 and with future revisions.

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FTC Grants Three-Month Delay of 'Red Flags' Identity Theft Prevention Programs

The Federal Trade Commission has delayed enforcement of the new "Red Flags Rule" until August 1, 2009, to give creditors and financial institutions more time to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs. Visit <http://ftc.gov/opa/2009/04/redflagsrule.shtm> for more details.

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CIGNA Updates Modifier 25 and 59 Documentation Requirements

CIGNA is updating the Modifier 25 policy and Modifier 59 policy to reflect a reduction in the supporting documentation requirements. For the complete list of current code combinations that require supporting documentation when modifiers 25 or 59 are billed, log in to the secure CIGNA for Health Care Professionals website (www.cignaforhpc.com) and click Resources > Claim Editing Procedures.

Modifier 25: The current supporting documentation requirement for modifier 25 is being significantly reduced and will only require the submission of documentation on



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CIGNA Updates (continued)

73 code combinations, beginning April 27. Approximately 1% of claims billed with modifier 25 will require supporting documentation.

Modifier 59: The supporting documentation requirement for modifier 59 is being postponed until April 27, 2009, and has been revised to significantly reduce the number of code combinations that require the submission of documentation. The updated list consists of 121 code combinations that require supporting documentation. Approximately 2% of claims billed with modifier 59 will require supporting documentation.

You can continue to submit claims electronically to CIGNA, even if supporting documentation is required. Indicate in box 19/Loop 3200 of the electronic claim that the documentation will be sent through another channel. The indicators on the electronic claim include the delivery method for sending the attachment (i.e., fax, mail), as well as the description code for the type of attachment (i.e., physicians' report, operative notes). Supporting documentation can be faxed to CIGNA at 1.570.496.2945 or sent via mail to the CIGNA address on the back of the patient's ID card.

For additional information on CIGNA Modifiers and Reimbursement Policies, visit www.cignaforchcp.com and click Resources > Claim Editing Procedures.

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What are people saying about your doctor online?

In the old days, when patients were upset they complained to their friends, work mates and spouses. Now they have the opportunity to get even by posting negative reviews online about their physicians and their offices.

4 Steps of Action

- 1) Have your office manager or someone who is comfortable with the web do a search on your doctor at these web sites:

www.thehealthcarescoop.com

www.yelp.com

www.ratemds.com

There is no telling what people are saying about you on these sites because they are anonymous and unfiltered.

Check the physician's information on these sites to make sure the information is up to date and accurate. HealthGrades reviews often appear first when somebody looks you up on Google. When you update your profile with HealthGrades, you can not only make sure your information is accurate and up to date, but you can also get a free copy of your report. www.google.com / www.healthgrades.com

More sites to review: www.zagat.com / www.wellpoint.com
www.mycigna.com
www.entnet.com



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What are people saying about your doctor online? *(continued)*

- 2) Respond to the negative reviews in the same calm manner you would with an irate patient in your office. Yelp.com has recently added a feature for the business owner to respond to the patient's review and many other sites have the same feature.
- 3) Administer patient surveys in your office so that they have an opportunity to express themselves without making it public and you have the opportunity to respond.
- 4) Encourage satisfied patients to post reviews on the sites above.

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State Approved List of Printers for Prescription Pads

Approved Printers

Here is the current approved printer list as of March 2, 2009:

Brand Printing & Photo Litho Co., Inc.,
Indianapolis – (317) 921-4095

Ewing Printing Co., Inc.,
Vincennes – (812) 882-2415

Fast Print, Inc.,
Fort Wayne – (260) 484-5487

Fine Print,
Bloomington – (812) 339-3987

Printing Place,
Angola – (260) 665-8444

Standard Register,
Carmel – (866) 346-8090

According to the ISMA (March 23, 2009) the list of approved printers for blue prescription pads has been drastically reduced. Previously, there were 300 approved printers that prescribers could order their prescription pads from, but as of March 2, 2009, it is down to six. (As of 4/15/2009 there are nine on the list at the website below.)

Printers must obtain prior approval from the Indiana Board of Pharmacy in order to supply prescription pads to prescribers. The pharmacy board raised concerns that physicians are not using compliant prescription pads so the Board asked all approved printers to reapply and submit a sample proof. State law has ten requirements for the pads to meet. Only six printers met all ten requirements. Printers not approved will be reconsidered on August 1, 2009.

The consequences of not using compliant prescription pads is the possibility a pharmacy will refuse to fill the prescription and possible discipline for knowingly or intentionally violating the rules.

The current printer list and a sample proof are posted on the pharmacy board website: <http://www.in.gov/pla/2538.htm>. Any updates will be posted on this site. If you have further questions, call ISMA's Legal Department at (800) 257-4762.

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H1N1 Flu.....What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

Stay informed

Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people. Here are some actions you can take to help stay healthy:

- Take everyday actions to stay healthy.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- Develop a family emergency plan as a precaution.

For the latest recommendations on mitigating the spread of swine flu visit the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

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May Health Observances & Healthcare Recognition Dates

- Alcohol & Other Drug-Related Birth Defects Week, National
- Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month
- Better Hearing & Speech Month
- Brain Tumor Action Week (1st full week)
- Digestive Diseases Awareness Month, National
- Senior Health & Fitness Day, National (always the last Wed.)
- Running and Fitness Week, National
- Skin Cancer Awareness Month
- Stroke Awareness Month, National
- Women's Health Week, National - 2nd full week