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The Cutting Edge

Accuray's Health Policy & Payment Newsletter

October 2008

We listen to your feedback, keep it coming!

Thanks for your reviews and suggestions regarding the past editions of The Cutting Edge. We received many positive responses including some suggestions on future topics.

Past issues can now be downloaded from:

<http://www.accuray.com/ClinicalInfo/Newsletters/index.aspx>

Are there other topics you have questions about? Please email your ideas and suggestions to:

ReimbursementService@Accuray.com

What Are You Hearing?

As hard as we try, we don't always hear of edits, regional coding or policy changes immediately. If you hear information that may impact CyberKnife[®] Centers in the future we would appreciate a heads up so we can spread the word to other centers and the appropriate societies.

Thanks to many of you for helping us to understand what is happening, being said or is just plain unusual when it comes to coding and coverage for robotic stereotactic radiosurgery.

Let's keep those lines of communication open sending information you feel is important to:

Reimbursementservice@accuray.com

Sincerely,

Dirk Sutherland

Reimbursement Program Manager

October's Articles

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Coding Corner

by Deb Mills

Proposed HOPPS Fiducial Placement Rates

The 2009 proposed HOPPS rules included an increase for fiducial placement of fiducials in the hospital outpatient setting. The current and proposed rates are listed below:

55876 - Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy guidance (e.g., fiducial markers, dosimeter), prostate (via needle, any approach), single or multiple (APC 0156).

Current 2008 Medicare National Unadjusted Rate \$194.07
 Proposed 2008 Medicare National Unadjusted Rate \$900.50

C9728 - Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy/surgery guidance (e.g., fiducial markers, dosimeter), other than prostate (any approach), single or multiple

Current 2008 Medicare National Unadjusted Rate \$194.07
 Proposed 2008 Medicare National Unadjusted Rate \$900.50

We will send an update on the final ruling on this and all other codes related to Robotic Stereotactic Radiosurgery shortly after publication of the HOPPS final rules.

CPT only 2008© of the American Medical Association

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General Updates

November Reimbursement Webcast Registration

By Dirk
Sutherland

The November Reimbursement webcast date and sign in information is provided below. This is a general **2008** coding and Medicare reimbursement update often attended by new CyberKnife® centers. We are also providing a Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) update along with any change in rates for codes used with SRS procedures.

The Health Policy and Payment Department will send a separate bulletin with dates and registration information for a series of webcasts reporting changes resulting from the 2009 final rules expected to be published in October 2008. These webcasts are typically offered the week before and after Thanksgiving.

Again the information below is for the November 2008 Reimbursement Webcast. Feel free to copy, paste and forward this registration information to others interested in attending. Choose the appropriate link for the date you would like to attend.

=====

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2008

Topic: Accuray 2008 Reimbursement Webcast

Time: 1:00 pm, Central Standard Time (GMT -06:00, Chicago)

To register for this meeting

- 1. Go to <https://accuray.webex.com/accuray/j.php?ED=101874437&RG=1&UID=0>
2. Register for the meeting.
3. Check for confirmation email with instructions on how to join

Once the host approves your request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting.

You can contact me at:

dsutherland@accuray.com

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Collateral Collection

by Dirk
Sutherland

2008 Treatment Overview and Clinical Coding Guide

The 2008 Treatment Overview and Clinical Coding Guide has been updated to include the recent AMA clarification regarding the process for physicians reporting stereotactic radiosurgery. The 17-page guide is divided into the following sections:

- The Treatment Process
- Coding Overview
- Coding Conditions and Guidelines
- Professional and Physician Office Technical Coding
- Hospital Outpatient Coding
- Hospital Inpatient Services, Revenues And ICD-9 Codes
- Fiducial Coding
- Sample Charge Capture Models
- Unlisted Procedure Codes
- Glossary
- Selected References

If you would like an electronic copy of the 2008 Treatment Overview and Clinical Coding Guide contact your Accuray Account Manager or Sales Representative.

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Medicare Minute

by Dirk
Sutherland

Medicare 2009 Final PFS & OPFS rules coming soon

Medicare will soon complete the 2009 Final rules for the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS).

As in the past, Accuray's Health Policy and Payment team will immediately alert our customers of the rule publication. Within a week of publication we will follow-up with a summary of the impact, if any, on Medicare Stereotactic Radiosurgery policy and reimbursement.

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CMS Publishes Partial List Of Medically Unlikely Edits

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that beginning October 1, 2008 the majority of existing MUEs will be made public and posted on the CMS website accessed through the MUE webpage at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08_MUE.asp#TopOfPage

This list includes most codes with MUE values of 1-3. Due to concerns that providers will incorrectly interpret MUE values as utilization guidelines, CMS at this time is not publishing MUEs with values higher than 3. MUE values do NOT represent units of service that may be reported without concern about the medical review. Providers should continue to only report services that are medically reasonable and necessary.

For more information about the MUE program and requests for reconsideration of MUE values, use the link above to access the CMS MUE webpage and click on the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) link.

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The Policy Place

by Susan
Thompson

Recent Commercial Policy Revisions

As you know commercial policies are reviewed on a regular basis. The following is a list of recently revised BlueCross and/or BlueShield affiliated company policies along with extracranial indications. Each indication may be associated with additional coverage criteria so as usual we suggest prior to treatment you review coverage policies for specific coverage criteria.

- BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana (06/08) extracranial indications covered per coverage criteria include Spine and Lung
- Blue Shield of California (07/08) extracranial indications covered per coverage criteria include Spine, Lung, Liver and Prostate
- BlueCross BlueShield of Florida (9/08) extracranial indications covered per coverage criteria include Spine, Lung and Liver
- Wellmark (09/08) extracranial indications include spine, lung, liver and pancreas

We are always interested in hearing in revisions to your regional commercial payers. Please forward any changes in your regional policies to:

reimbursementservice@accuray.com

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Recent Public Policy Activity

On October 2, 2008 Palmetto GBA released draft Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs). These policies will be open for a 45 day comment period beginning on October 30, 2008 with an effective date scheduled for January 30, 2009 in the states of California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Providers who have already submitted comments to Palmetto are encouraged to resubmit their comments during the official comment period. Palmetto has also scheduled open public meetings to hear public comments on these policies.

The draft policies and information about the open meetings can be accessed on the links below:

Draft Local Coverage Determinations

<http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/docsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Coverage~Medical%20Policies?open>

November 18, 2008, 9am - 11am: Open Draft LCD Meeting Scheduled for California

<http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~General~November%2018,%202008,%209am%20-%2011am:%20Open%20Draft%20LCD%20Meeting%20Scheduled%20for%20California?opendocument>

November 6, 2008, 9am - 11am: Open Draft LCD Meeting Scheduled for Nevada

<http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~General~November%206,%202008,%209am%20-%2011am:%20Open%20Draft%20LCD%20Meeting%20Scheduled%20for%20Nevada%20?opendocument>

October 30, 2008, 8 am - 10 am: Open Draft Local Coverage Determination Meeting Scheduled for Hawaii

<http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/DocsCat/Providers~Jurisdiction%201%20Part%20B~Articles~General~October%2030,%202008,%208%20am%20-%2010%20am:%20Open%20Draft%20Local%20Coverage%20Determination%20Meeting%20Scheduled%20for%20Hawaii?opendocument>

Technology Assessment

The California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF) has published their June 18th panel recommendation supporting SBRT for NSCLC:

"In medically inoperable patients with early stage non-small cell lung cancer the evidence for SBRT is sufficient for peripheral lesions. These cases have few options and the current evidence suggests SBRT is better than conventional XRT."

The CTAF recommendation can be found at:

<http://www.ctaf.org/content/general/detail/870>

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Your Health Policy & Payment Team

Debra Mills - Clinical Coding Manager
Diane Davies - Director of Health Economics
Dirk Sutherland - Reimbursement Program Manager
Jack Kennedy - Reimbursement Specialist, West Region
Olivier Menage - Health Policy Payment Manager - Europe
Quentin Heim - Vice President of Reimbursement & Health Economics
Susan Thompson - Health Policy Payment Manager - USA
Wendy Wifler - Senior Director Health Policy & Payment

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