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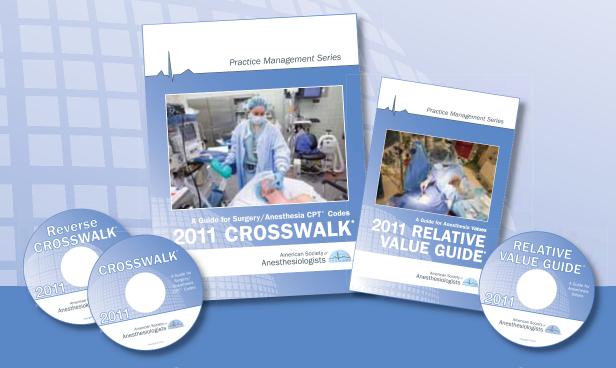
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## contents



#### **Features**

- 16 Remote Coders: Keep the Lines of Communication Open Jenifer Cooper, CPC, RCC
- 18 Code Medicare's Preventive Visits from Head to Toe Joyce Will, CPC
- 20 New Annual Wellness Visit: Boon or Trap? Stephen C. Spain, MD, FAAFP, CPC
- 22 Meet Criteria for IP-only Procedures Under the OPPS Denise Williams, RN, CPC-H
- 24 Make the Most of CPT® at Your Fingertips Brad Ericson, MPC, CPC, COSC
- 28 Meet Stress Testing Supervision Requirements Jill Young, CPC, CEDC, CIMC
- 31 NAB Focuses on Your Future Michelle A. Dick
- 35 Keep Your Practice Up-to-date on 2011 Ophthalmology Kim M. Ross, OCS, CPC

On the Cover: As the future of health care unfolds, there are so many coding career options to choose from. New AAPC NAB President Cynthia L. Stewart, CPC, CPC-H, CMPA, CPC-I, CCS-P, is here to help coders find their path. Cover photo taken at St. Vincent Health, Indianapolis, by Jennifer Driscoll Photography (www.photosbyjennifer.com).



#### In Every Issue

- Letter from the President and CEO
- **Coding News**
- **Letter from Member Leadership**
- 12 Letters to the Editor

#### **Special Features**

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- 14 ICD-10-CM Sepsis Coding Cynthia L. Stewart, CPC, CPC-H, CPMA, CPC-I
- 49 AAPCCA Local Chapter Questions Angela Jordan, CPC

#### Education

- 38 Newly Credentialed Members
- 46 Enhance Your Compliance Status Michael D. Miscoe, JD, CPC, CASCC, CUC, CCPC, CPCO, CHCCI

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312	Dolbey Systems	403	Medical Auditing Specialists	301
104	Elsevier	601	National American University	304
ation 100	Elsevier - MC Strategies	205	National Government Service	s 107
	FA Davis Company	303	Navicure	202
111	Find-A-Code	306	North American Spine Society	y 313
y of	FormFast	103	Phoenix Children's Hospital	309
igers 105	Gateway EDI	207	Physician Practice Resouces	112
s 607/608	HCPro	501	PMIC	101
402	Huron Healthcare	602	Radiology Coding	
108	Ingenix	1	Certification Board	206
308	Kaiser Permanente	204	Scentsy	505/506
305	LS Coding & Education	407	The Coding Institute	600
	MAG Mutual		The Coding Source	109/110
502	<b>Healthcare Solutions</b>	603	Unicor Medical	408
106	McGraw-Hill Higher Educa	tion 201	United Audit Systems	509
102	MDaudit	302	UnitedHealthcare	400
613	Medical Coding &		Wolters Kluwer Law & Busines	ss 113
300	Healthcare Compliance	413	ZHealth Publishing	307
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## NAB Grows with Industry Changes

ur National Advisory Board (NAB) includes 16 members appointed by AAPC, representing eight geographical regions of the United States and four officers elected by the NAB including president, president-elect, member relations, and secretary. The role of the NAB is to advise AAPC leadership on coding issues, trends, and member needs, and enthusiastically promote and to support AAPC's mission and the coding profession. Each NAB representative becomes an ambassador for AAPC and its membership. Every two years a new NAB is elected to represent us. Our new board has been appointed for the next two years.

#### Another NAB Chapter Is Written

It is amazing how fast the years fly by. I remember handing over the gavel to NAB President Terrance C. Leone, CPC, CPC-P, CPC-I, CIRCC, just two short years ago. It was a very surreal time for me because I really loved serving the membership of AAPC and I enjoyed all the wonderful people and good works our NAB accomplished. Terry must be feeling much of the same emotion I did when my term ended. He has been a very good colleague and friend of mine for several years. We met serving together as board members and during my term as president. Now it is time to say "goodbye," but I am certain he will remain just as involved and supportive of AAPC when the new NAB steps into office.

#### Thanks for a Job Well Done

Thanks to the NAB officers who served with Terry, which include, Cynthia L. Stewart, CPC, CPC-H, CPMA, CPC-I, CCS-P, president-elect; Linda Farrington CPC, CPC-I, secretary and Julia Croly, CPC, CPC-P, CPC-I, member relations; and the entire NAB of which there are too

many to mention. These wonderful people have been selfless of their time serving the NAB and are commended for their service. Thank you everyone for a job well done.

#### Welcome Our New Leaders

The entire AAPC welcomes NAB President Stewart and her officers, who include: David B. Dunn, MD, FACS, CPC-H, CIRCC, CCC, CCS, RCC, president-elect; Kerin Draak, MS, RN, WHNP-BC, CPC, CPC-I, CEMC, COBGC, secretary; and Melody S. Irvine, CPC, CPMA, CPC-I, CEMC, CCS-P, CMRS, member relations.

The entire NAB has a tough act to follow, and I know Cyndi and her team are up to the challenge. Because of Cyndi's extensive experience working in the health care industry and as an in-the-trenches coder, she understands our membership, our challenges, and strengths. She will lead our next NAB into a future filled with challenges, such as the electronic health record (EHR) adoption, the 5010 conversion, ICD-10, mandated compliance, and whatever else is next to come. AAPC looks forward to working with Cyndi's NAB in the next two years and will rely on the NAB's voice and guidance as health care brings change. Welcome Cyndi and the entire NAB.

Next month, Coding Edge will introduce and feature our 16 new board members.

Until next month, my friends,

Deborah Grider. CPC, CPC-H, CPC-I, CPC-P, CPMA, CEMC, COBGC, CPCD, CCS-P AAPC President and CEO



## **Coding News**



### New Implementation Dates for Telehealth Services

The implementation dates for expanded Medicare telehealth services codes were changed to Jan. 3, 2011 for providers who bill carriers or Parts A and B Medicare administrative contractors (A/B MACs) and April 4, 2011 for providers who bill fiscal intermediaries (FIs) or A/B MACs. Medicare contractors will not reprocess claims submitted prior to these implementation dates. Such claims brought to their attention will be adjusted. The CR release date, transmittal numbers, and the Internet address for accessing the CR have been revised. All other information remains the same.

In case you missed the first release, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Change Request (CR) 7049 to add 14 HCPCS codes to the list of Medicare telehealth services for:

- "Individual and group Kidney Disease Education (KDE) services:
- Individual and group Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) services;
- Group Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) services;
- Group Health and Behavior Assessment and Intervention (HBAI) services; and
- Subsequent hospital care and nursing facility care services."

CMS has added the following requested services to the list of Medicare telehealth services for 2011:

- Individual and group KDE services:
  - HCPCS Level II code G0420
     Face-to-face educational
     services related to the care
     of chronic kidney disease;
     individual, per session, per
     one hour; and
  - HCPCS Level II code G0421
     Face-to-face educational
     services related to the care
     of chronic kidney disease;
     group, per session, per one
     hour.
- Individual and group DSMT services (with a minimum of 1 hour of in-person instruction to be furnished in the initial year training period to ensure effective injection training):
  - HCPCS Level II code G0108 Diabetes outpatient self-

- management training services, individual, per 30 minutes; and
- HCPCS Level II code G0109
   Diabetes outpatient selfmanagement training
   services, group session (2 or
   more) per 30 minutes.
- Group MNT and HBAI services, CPT® codes: 97804 Medical nutrition therapy; group (2 or more individual(s)), each 30 minutes, 96153 Health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; group (2 or more patients), and 96154 Health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; family (with the patient present);
- Subsequent hospital care services, with the limitation of one telehealth visit every three days; CPT® codes 99231-99233.
- Subsequent nursing facility care services, with the limitation of one telehealth visit every 30 days, CPT® codes 99307-99310.

Make billing staff aware of these changes.

"Frequency limitations on subsequent hospital care and subsequent nursing facility care delivered through telehealth do not apply to inpatient telehealth consultations," CMS says in the revised CR. "Consulting practitioners should continue to use the inpatient telehealth consultation HCPCS codes (G0406, G0407, G0408, G0425, G0426, or G0427) when reporting consultations furnished via telehealth."

See MLN Matters article www.cms.gov/ MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7049. pdf or CR 7155 www.cms.gov/transmit tals/downloads/R2169CP.pdf for modifier usage and other pertinent information.

#### **CMS Changes MRI Coverage**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new coverage guidance for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in Medicare beneficiaries with implanted permanent pacemakers (PMs) or implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), effective Feb. 24, 2011. The Implementation date is April 4, 2011.

For MRI services, CR 7296 says Medicare will continue to retain current section 220.2.C.1 contraindications of the *NCD Manual*. "However, CMS believes

the evidence is promising, although not yet convincing, that MRI will improve health outcomes in patients with PMs and ICDs if certain safeguards are in place, and therefore will allow for coverage of MRI for Medicare beneficiaries with implanted PMs or ICDs when those beneficiaries are enrolled in a clinical studies that are approved by CMS for the purpose of gaining further evidence about the utility and safety of MRI exposure."

See CR 7296 (www.cms.gov/transmit tals/downloads/R132NCD.pdf) for details, including the list of safety criteria and scientific integrity standards that providers must meet.

### CAHs Have New Incentives for Primary Care Services

Payment to critical access hospital (CAHs) paid under the optional method has changed.

According to MLN Matters 7115, section 5501(a) of the Affordable Care Act revises section 1833 of the Social Security Act by adding a new paragraph, Incentive Payments for Primary Care Services (PCIP). The new paragraph states that when primary care services are furnished on or after Jan. 1, 2011 and before Jan. 1, 2016 by a primary care practitioner, 10 percent of the payment amount for such services under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) (on a monthly or quarterly basis) will be paid.

Eligible primary care physicians and non-physician practitioners furnishing a primary care service in a health professional shortage area (HPSA) may receive both a HPSA physician bonus payment under the established program and a PCIP payment under the new program, beginning in 2011.

### PCIP Payments to Critical Access Hospitals

"Physicians and non-physician practitioners billing on Type of Bill (TOB) 85X for professional services rendered in a CAH paid under the optional method have the option of reassigning their billing rights to the CAH. When the billing rights are reassigned to the CAH, payment is made to the CAH for professional services (Revenue Codes (RC) 96X, 97X or 98X)."

See the table in MLN Matters article 7115 (www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7115.pdf) for codes that remain active for primary care incentive payments in 2011.





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## NAB Helps Elevate AAPC in the Health Care Industry

s I write my first message, spring is in the air bringing a welcome change from the long, cold winter. Like the transition that arrives with spring, I find myself again at the crossroads of change during the end of a National Advisory Board (NAB) term and the transition into the new board's term. I'm excited and a bit nervous to begin my role as NAB president, and I'm also melancholy as I recall the past four years and my time with two exceptional NABs and the outstanding individual members of each.

#### 2007-2009

From the moment the 2007-2009 NAB was introduced to AAPC membership, it bonded under the challenge of advising and assisting the national office during its recreation of AAPC for its members. Many positive changes came about through the hard work and dedication of this board and its leaders. From the fun and amusingly embarrassing moments of AAPC National Conference skits, to the detailed labors required to advance AAPC to its current level of professionalism, board members dedicated themselves to moving AAPC towards its future. This bond, which remains with many of us today, has provided irreplaceable support to AAPC and myself. I hope it will continue to do so in the future.

#### 2009-2011

The 2009-2011 NAB has been no less exceptional in its dedication and contributions to our membership. During the past two years, the board has worked, both seen and unseen, to continue:

- keeping the momentum going to grow AAPC membership;
- broadening the scope and depth of our profession; and

keeping pace with advancements in the business side of medicine.

A complete list of the tasks assigned to the 2009-2011 NAB would exhaust the limits of this letter; however, several major board assignments come to mind. The first was the creation of the 100K task force. It was the responsibility of this committee to amplify membership's national voice by adding volume to our organization. The next task involved forming committees to identify additional credentials needed to enlarge and encompass the scope of an AAPC coder's work. And most recently, the NAB's ethics committee was asked to clarify the ethics violation process and revise the AAPC Code of Ethics to reflect more closely the mission and ethics of the current AAPC and its membership.

Our achievements brought positive benefits to our members:

- Membership reached well over 100,000 members, making us the largest medical coding organization and ensuring our voice in the profession.
- Two new credentials were added: the Certified Professional Medical Auditor (CPMA®) and the Certified Professional Compliance Officer (CPCO™).
- The first AAPC Mission Statement was created.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve with both NAB presidents, Deborah Grider, CPC, CPC-H, CPC-I, CPC-P, CEMC, CPMA, COBGC, CPCD, CCS-P, and Terrance C. Leone, CPC, CPC-P, CPC-I, CIRCC. I have learned a great deal from both as mentors and hope to lead the next NAB in a manner which continues to elevate our profession and bring pride to members of AAPC.



#### 2011-2013

So what's in store for the 2011-2013 NAB? With the pace at which our health care industry is evolving, it's a tough prediction to make. One thing is certain, though: We will stay our current course of helping members grow within their careers by encompassing their educational needs, providing an environment for a positive exchange of ideas and information, and elevating AAPC as a leader in the health care industry.

Best Wishes,

Cynthia Stewart, CPC, CPC-H, CPMA, CPC-I, CCS-P President, National Advisory Board

#### Vascular Coding Orders Need Clarification

I was just reading the article, "Keep Vascular Coding in the Family," by Kimberly Engel, CPC, in the February 2011 *Coding Edge* and I believe there is an error on page 20.

In the first column, almost two-thirds of the way down, she states, "The brachiocephalic has two children, the right axillary and right common carotid." According to my illustrations, the right axillary is a third order following the right subclavian, which would be the correct "first child" from the brachiocephalic.

Diane Cooper, CPC

Technically we are both correct. It is the same vessel and the same order, both second off the brachiocephalic. However, the axillary is also a second order of the subclavian, not a third order.

Kimberly Engel, CPC

#### Get Chapter Sequencing Priorities Straight

In the March 2011 issue, I noticed a slight error (perhaps a typo) in "Simplify HIV and AIDS Coding" [page 23]. In point 6, "Pregnancy Takes Sequencing Priority," the article states, "Codes from chapter 15 always take sequencing priority." This should say that codes from chapter 11 take sequencing priority. Chapter 15 codes deal with conditions originating in the perinatal period and don't appear on the mother's record.

Ken Camilleis, CPC, CPC-I, CMRS

As you note, the article should have advised that codes from ICD-9-CM chapter 11—not chapter 15—take sequencing priority. To quote the *ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting*, "Chapter 11 codes have sequencing priority over codes from other chapters. Additional codes from other chapters may be used in conjunction with chapter 11 codes to further specify conditions."

The *Official Guidelines* further specify that chapter 15 codes "are never for use on the maternal record."

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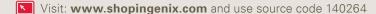






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By Cynthia L. Stewart, CPC, CPC-H, CPMA, CPC-I, CCS-P

## Understand How ICD-10 Expands Sepsis Coding

#### Accurately capture the increased complexity of treating severe sepsis.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2013, diagnosis coding of sepsis, severe sepsis, and septic shock will involve a few changes. For one, you will have many more ICD-10-CM codes from which to choose to fully describe sepsis verses severe sepsis, compared to what ICD-9-CM offers. But not everything will change. The code sequencing rules for fully describing the condition of severe sepsis, for example, will remain unchanged with ICD-10-CM. Understanding what will change and what will remain the same will ease the impending transition between code sets.

### Get Familiar with Combination Code Usage

Because ICD-10-CM uses combination coding, sepsis without acute organ failure will require only one code: the code for the underlying systemic infection (A40.0-A41.9). Complete and accurate severe sepsis coding will continue to require a minimum of two codes. The first code sequenced in this combination identifies the underlying organism (Sepsis, A40.0-A41.9) or cause of the sepsis (postprocedural infection, trauma, or burn), followed by a code indicating the extent to which the septic condition has progressed: severe sepsis with or without septic shock.

ICD-10-CM splits the condition of severe sepsis with combination codes R65.21 Severe sepsis with septic shock and R65.20 Severe sepsis without septic shock. As with other combination codes, assigning a separate code for septic shock in addition to the combination code is unnecessary. When documented, any associated organ dysfunction should be assigned following the code for severe sepsis. Although the condition of sepsis and its associated code may not be the first listed for the principle diagnosis, the sequencing of these codes remains the same.

#### **Urosepsis Is No Longer Coded**

Another change is the deletion of the urosepsis condition and code. Considered in ICD-10-CM as a nonspecific term and not associated with sepsis, the default code for this condition in ICD-9-CM (599.0 *Urinary tract infection, site not specified*) is not carried forward in ICD-10-CM. If the provider documents this condition, further clarification should be sought prior to coding.

#### See How Sepsis Translates

To see how sepsis translates, compare the associated ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM codes in **Table A**.

#### Newborn Sepsis Codes Get Specific

ICD-10-CM also will bring changes to newborn sepsis coding, as shown in Table B. ICD-9-CM requires a secondary code in addition to the newborn sepsis code (771.81 Septicemia [sepsis] of newborn) to identify the bacterial infection as the underlying organism. As with non-newborn sepsis codes, ICD-10-CM provides combination codes to identify both the condition of sepsis and the underlying organism (P36 Sepsis of newborn due to streptococcus, group B). If a combination code is not available, assign an additional code to identify the underlying organism (B96). When documented, also assign a code for severe sepsis followed by any associated acute organ dysfunction.

#### Here's How Puerperal Sepsis Translates

As shown in Table C, the coding of puerperal sepsis will involve only a change in codes because combination codes for puerperal sepsis and the underlying bacterial cause were not created for ICD-10-CM. Coding for this condition using ICD-10-CM codes will continue to require both the code for puerperal sepsis (O85 *Puerperal sepsis*) and the

code for the underlying infection (B95-B96 Bacterial infections in conditions classified elsewhere). As with ICD-9-CM, do not assign a code for sepsis (A40-A41) because the code for puerperal sepsis (O85) identifies this condition. If documented, an additional code for severe sepsis (R65.2x) should be assigned, followed by documented associated organ dysfunction.

Let's put it all together and compare use of the two code sets by coding these diagnostic statements:

Sepsis due to methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA)

ICD-9-CM: 038.11, 995.91 ICD-10-CM: A41.0

Septic shock and respiratory failure due to methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus

**ICD-9-CM:** 038.12, 995.92, 785.52 Septic shock, 518.81 Acute respiratory failure **ICD-10-CM:** A41.0, Z16, R65.21, J96.0 Acute respiratory failure

As you can see, the changes in ICD-10-CM coding eliminate ICD-9-CM's current code redundancy of coding sepsis due to infectious conditions.

The ICD-10-CM coding system more accurately reflects the clinical significance and increased complexity of treating severe sepsis when presenting with septic shock by identifying the presence of this condition. As before, however, the sepsis rules are lengthy and documentation will continue to play a key role in the proper assignment of the new code set. For a successful ICD-10-CM transition, educate your providers early on about these and other documentation and coding changes.



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Table A: Sepsis, Severe Sepsis, and Septic Shock Due to Infectious or Non-infectious Process

ICD-9 Code	Nomenclature	ICD-10 Code	Nomenclature
038.0	Streptococcal septicemia	A40.0	Sepsis due to streptococcus, group A
036.0	Streptococcai Septiceillia	A40.1	Sepsis due to streptococcus, group B
	No code	A40.8	Other streptococcal sepsis
	No code	A40.9	Streptococcal sepsis, unspecified
038.10	Staphylococcal septicemia, unspecified	A41.2	Sepsis due to unspecified staphylococcus
038.11	Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus septicemia (includes staphylococcus aureus septicemia NOS)	A41.0	Sepsis due to Staphylococcus aureus
038.12	Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus septicemia	A41.0 Z16	Sepsis due to Staphylococcus aureus Infection with drug resistant microorganisms
038.19	Other staphylococcal septicemia	A41.1	Sepsis due to other specified staphylococcus
038.2	Pneumococcal septicemia [Streptococcus pneumoniae septicemia]	A40.3	Sepsis due to Streptococcus pneumoniae
038.3	Septicemia due to anaerobes	A41.4	Sepsis due to anaerobes
038.40	Septicemia due to gram-negative organism, unspecified (includes gram-negative septicemia NOS)	A41.50	Gram-negative sepsis, unspecified
038.41	Septicemia due to Hemophilus influenza [H. influenza]	A41.3	Sepsis due to Hemophilus influenza
038.42	Septicemia due to Escherichia coli [E. coli]	A41.51	Sepsis due to Escherichia coli
038.43	Septicemia due to pseudomonas	A41.52	Sepsis due to pseudomonas
038.44	Septicemia due to serratia	A41.53	Sepsis due to serratia
038.49	Septicemia due to other gram-negative organisms	A41.59	Other gram-negative sepsis
	No code	A41.81	Sepsis due to Enterococcus
038.8	Other specified septicemias	A41.89	Other specified sepsis
038.9	Unspecified septicemia	A41.9	Sepsis, unspecified
995.90	Systemic inflammatory response syndrome, unspecified		No code
995.91	Sepsis (systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) due to infectious process without acute organ dysfunction)		No code
995.92	Severe sepsis (SIRS due to infectious process with acute organ dysfunction)	R65.20	Severe sepsis without septic shock
995.92	Severe sepsis (SIRS due to infectious process with acute organ dysfunction)	R65.21	Severe sepsis with septic shock
995.93	Systemic inflammatory response syndrome due to noninfectious process without acute organ dysfunction	R65.10	SIRS of non-infectious origin without acute organ dysfunction
995.94	Systemic inflammatory response syndrome due to noninfectious process with acute organ dysfunction	R65.11	SIRS of non-infectious origin with acute organ dysfunction

**Table B: Newborn Sepsis Coding Comparison** 

Table B. Newborn Sepsis County Comparison				
ICD-9 Code	Nomenclature	ICD-10 Code	Nomenclature	
		P36.0	Sepsis of newborn due to streptococcus, group B	
		P36.10	Sepsis of newborn due to unspecified streptococci	
		P36.19	Sepsis of newborn due to other streptococci	
771.81 Septicemia of newborn	P36.2	Sepsis of newborn due to staphylococcus aureus		
	Septicemia	P36.30	Sepsis of newborn due to unspecified staphylococci	
	P36.39	Sepsis of newborn due to other staphylococci		
		P36.4	Sepsis of newborn due to Escherichia coli	
		P36.5	Sepsis of newborn due to anaerobes	
		P36.8	Other bacterial sepsis of newborn	
		P36.9	Bacterial sepsis of newborn, unspecified	

**Table C: Puerperal Sepsis Coding Comparison** 

ICD-9 Code	Nomenclature	ICD-10 Code	Nomenclature
670.2x	Puerperal sepsis	085	Puerperal sepsis



By Jenifer Cooper, CPC, RCC

## Remote Coders: Keep the Lines of Communication Open

Use these tips to prevent distant work interactions from becoming misconstrued.

ore than ever, coders work at locations remote from the physician or practice for which they code. Some coders work from home, while others work for a billing service that provides coding services in one location for many physicians. If you are a remote coder, you know there are unique challenges to working for someone you may not have met. The interactions you have with the provider and his or her office staff sets the tone for keeping a beneficial working arrangement.

Consider ways to strengthen this relationship. The key is good communication—and when the only correspondence you have with your employer is via e-mail and phone, this is even more important.

#### **Examine E-mail Etiquette**

First, consider how you communicate with the physician or his office staff. If you use e-mail, make sure it paints a favorable portrait of your work ethic. There is never a good time to use SMS language (textese) in a business situation. "Wd U like us 2 do this now or L8R? THX!" doesn't let the recipient know that you are a competent coder. Try to use the best grammar and punctuation you can, and use the spelling and grammar checking features in your e-mail program.

Speak clearly and keep messages short and to the point. A rambling message might cause the recipient to set e-mail aside to deal with later, "when there's more time." For a busy office staff or practitioner, that time may never come.

Consider that the person with whom you are corresponding may not have your knowledge of coding or billing. Some physicians keep up to date with the coding world, while others prefer to focus entirely on caring for their patients. Know your clients, so you know how much explanation to provide.

WARNING: Always keep Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

(HIPAA) regulations in mind, and be careful of how much personal information about a patient you include in an e-mail. Ask if the practice has a policy regarding protected health information in e-mails, and consider checking with the "IT guy" to verify the security of the e-mail client you use. A fax or a phone call may be considered more secure. Or, you may choose to use a non-personal identifier, such as medical record number or account number when referring to a specific patient.



If you make phone calls to the provider, be polite and courteous to the person with whom you are speaking. Remember: You are part of the team. If you leave voicemail, give your name and phone number at the beginning and end of the message so the recipient is able to write down the information without replaying the message multiple times. A busy practice may get a lot of voicemail, and not a lot of time to spend on each one.

Be patient if you don't receive a call back right away. You never know what emergencies the practice may be attending to, or



if they are shorthanded. Don't call repeatedly if you don't get a response as quickly as you'd like. Be prepared with anything you might need when you call, so you can avoid putting the practice on hold. Attempt to return their calls promptly—never make your employer feel put off.

WARNING: A phone call leaves no record of what is discussed. If you call the office to get a diagnosis or clarify a performed procedure, get this information in writing. It protects the practice in case an external auditor comes knocking, and it protects you when your employer audits your work.

#### Follow Your Provider's Lead

Lastly, always respect the provider's preference. One doctor may not have a com-

puter in his office and prefer you call with questions. Another may hate answering the phone, or just not have time during hospital rounds, and would rather receive e-mail. One practitioner may be irritated by text messages, while another may do everything from his phone except make actual phone calls. Communicating in the manner your physician prefers will help ensure you receive a response.

Sticking to good business practices—as well as using common courtesy-will go a long way towards proving to your employer you're a professional coder.

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A phone call leaves no record of what is discussed. If you call the office to get a diagnosis or clarify a performed procedure, get this information in writing.

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By Joyce Will, CPC

## Code Medicare's Preventive Visits from Head to Toe

#### Know what these services really entail.

here are two types of annual wellness visits (AWVs): an initial visit (G0438 Annual wellness visit; includes a personalized prevention plan of service (PPS), initial visit) and a subsequent visit (G0439 Annual wellness visit, includes a personalized prevention plan of service (PPS), subsequent visit). These visits do not replace the "welcome to Medicare" visit (initial preventive physical exam (IPPE)) that has been covered since 2005. Rather, they are in addition to the IPPE. The requirements for each of these services are very similar:

IPPE and AWV services require very little physical examination, other than routine measurements. In contrast, if patients and physicians were asked to describe a "physical," it likely would involve a head-to-toe examination and discussion of age-appropriate risk factors. Routine physicals, as described by CPT\* 99381-99397, have never been covered under the Medicare program. Whether commercial payers cover preventive services depends entirely upon the individual patient's plan coverage.

Service Name	HCPCS	Coverage Limits	Required Elements
Welcome to Medicare Visit, IPPE	G0402	Once in a lifetime - within the first 12 months of Medicare eligibility	1. Review and documentation of the patient's medical and social history 2. Review and documentation of patient's potential risk factors for depression and/or other mood disorders 3. Review and documentation of patient's functional ability and level of safety 4. Physical examination, including height, weight, BP, visual acuity, and BMI 5. End-of-life planning 6. Education, counseling, and referral (if necessary) based on the five items above 7. Education, counseling, and referral (brief written plan) for other preventive services
Screening EKG	G0403 (global) G0404 (tracing only) G0405 (interp/ report only)	One time only (covered only in conjunction with IPPE)	
Ultrasound screen- ing for AAA	G0389	One time only - refer- ral must come as a result of IPPE	
AWV, including PPPS, Initial	G0438	Once in a life- time - not within 12 months of Medicare enrollment (IPPE during this time) or within 12 months of IPPE	<ol> <li>Establishment or update of the patient's medical and family history</li> <li>Review of individual's potential risk factors for depression and/or other mood disorders based on appropriate screening instrument</li> <li>Review and documentation of patient's functional ability and level of safety based on direct observation or use of appropriate screening questions</li> <li>Physical examination, including height, weight, BP, BMI (or waist circumference), and other routine measurements appropriate based on history</li> <li>Establishment of a list of current providers and suppliers involved in providing medical care to individual</li> <li>Detection of any cognitive impairment</li> <li>Establishment of a written screening schedule for the next 5-10 years, as appropriate, based on USPSTF and ACIP recommendations, health status, screening history, and age-appropriate preventive services covered by Medicare</li> <li>Establishment of a list of risk factors and conditions of which interventions are recommended or underway for the individual, including those identified through an IPPE and a list of treatment options and associated risks and benefits</li> <li>Provision of personalized health advice to the individual and referral, as appropriate, to programs aimed at reducing identified risk factors including weight loss, physical activity, smoking cessation, fall prevention, and nutrition</li> </ol>

IPPE and AWV services require very little physical examination, other than routine measurements.



Service Name	HCPCS	Coverage Limits	Required Elements
AWV, including PPPS, subsequent	G0439	Annually, but not within 12 months of initial visit (G0438)	<ol> <li>Update of the patient's medical and family history</li> <li>Update list of current providers and suppliers involved in providing medical care to individual</li> <li>Physical examination, including weight, BP, and other routine measurements appropriate based on history</li> <li>Detection of any cognitive impairment</li> <li>Update written screening schedule for the next 5·10 years, as appropriate, based on USPSTF and ACIP recommendations, health status, screening history, and age-appropriate preventive services covered by Medicare, established at initial visit</li> <li>Update list of risk factors and conditions of which interventions are recommended or underway for the individual, including those identified through an IPPE and a list of treatment options and associated risks and benefits</li> <li>Provision of personalized health advice to the individual and referral, as appropriate, to programs aimed at reducing identified risk factors including weight loss, physical activity, smoking cessation, fall prevention, and nutrition</li> </ol>

When the physician provides a problem-oriented service, or sick visit, with an IPPE or AWV, remember these guidelines:

New Patients: Do not bill both services together regardless of the insurance because the history and exam elements overlap and documentation can only be counted once. Both the 1995 and 1997 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management Services state, "a review of all three history areas is required for services that by their nature include a comprehensive assessment or reassessment of the

- patient." New patients fit in this category. The IPPE and AWV also require patient past medical, family and/or social history. Counting work done once for two billed services is "double dipping."
- **Established Patients:** Documentation for the sick visit requires a chief complaint and history of present illness, with medically necessary exam and decision making for the problem being treated. Other history components are tied up in the requirements of the IPPE or AWV and would not count towards documentation of the sick visit.

#### Alert Patients What to Expect

Medicare patients expecting a complete physical exam when scheduled for a welcome to Medicare or AWV may be disappointed by the reality of the service. Because disappointment often translates to unfavorable satisfaction surveys, educate patients on exactly what the service they are requesting entails when they make their appointment.



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By Stephen C. Spain, MD, FAAFP, CPC

## New Annual Wellness Visit: Boon or Trap?

#### Understand the requirements for appropriate reimbursement.

s required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently amended the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to include an annual wellness visit (AWV) for Medicare beneficiaries. The revenue for this service is significant, and it may be performed in addition to an evaluation and management (E/M) service at the same visit; therefore, it is in a providers' financial interest to offer this new service. Coders must understand the requirements and nuances of the new benefit, so charges can be submitted properly for appropriate reimbursement.

#### AWV Isn't a Typical Annual Physical

This AWV is "free" to Medicare patients, in that no co-pay or deductible will apply. Jurisdiction Medicare administrative contractors (JMACs) are reimbursing the initial AWV at approximately \$150, and the subsequent AWV at roughly \$100. This reimbursement should ensure that patients are offered the benefit.

The AWV is not the annual physical examination that most physicians were trained to perform, however. Physicians who complete a routine annual checkup and expect to submit this service for payment under the new benefit rules will fall far short of meeting the AWV requirements. The AWV contains little "hands on" examination, but when properly performed will help to identify important health risks and ensure Medicare patients receive the screening services they are due.

The intent of the initial AWV is to assess nine areas:

- 1. Establish the patient's past family, medical, and surgical history
- 2. Document the patient's current medications and supplements, to include specifically calcium use and multi-vitamin use

- 3. Generate a list of the patient's current health care providers, including home health agencies and durable medical equipment (DME) providers
- 4. Measure the patient's vital signs and body mass index (BMI)
- 5. Assess the patient's risk for depression
- 6. Assess the patient's cognitive ability
- 7. Assess the patient's risks for falls or injury
- 8. Determine and recommend the preventive health services that are due
- 9. Document the identified health risks and provide advice and referral, as appropriate and indicated, for these risks

As originally proposed, the AWV also included counseling for end-of-life planning. This "voluntary advance care planning" provision formed the foundation of the ballyhooed "Death Panel" criticisms directed against the PPACA. Under pressure from congress and the public, CMS notified providers on Jan. 10, 2011 that it had rescinded this requirement.

**Tip:** The interview format of the AWV involves asking a lot of direct, personal questions that may make some patients uncomfortable. You may wish to notify patients beforehand that their visit will be different, and explain the reason behind the changes in the usual encounter format. The sample letter shown in **Figure A** provides one example of how a practice might accomplish this.

#### Meet and Document Screening Specifics

The Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, chapter 15, section 280.5, requires that depression screening be "based upon the use of an appropriate screening instrument for persons without a current diagnosis of depression, which the health professional may select from various available standardized screening tests designed

for this purpose and recognized by national professional medical organizations" (www.cms.gov/ transmittals/downloads/R134BP.pdf).

This can be interpreted that a standardized screening instrument must be administered and scored, fully and properly. Providers should look at several of these, such as the MacArthur Initiative on Depression's PHQ-9, or the Beck's Depression Inventory. Sample PHQ-9 forms are widely available on the Internet (e.g., www.depression-primarycare.org/clinicians/toolkits/materials/forms/phq9/questionnaire\_sample/). There are other instruments available; whichever is selected, however, must be administered in its entirety and meet the standard of being "recognized by national professional medical organizations."

In contrast, the rules state that the evaluation to assess fall risk may be "based on direct observation or the use of appropriate screening questions or a screening questionnaire ..." Cognitive evaluation screens similarly may be "based on direct observation with due consideration of information obtained by way of patient reports, concerns raised by family members, friends, caretakers, or others." It's a good idea to incorporate a few components each from standardized Fall Risk and Cognitive Assessment tools into the AWV documentation. For example, documentation of a modified "Get Up and Go" test and a few points of the Mini Mental Status exam would meet the requirements.

When the evaluation is completed, there must be documentation that the results and identified risks were presented to the patient. Documentation of risk counseling and assessment of preventive services that are due, as well as a schedule of services due over the next five to 10 years, also is required. The patient must receive a written copy of the findings and recommendations.



Figure A: Sample Annual Wellness Visit Notification Letter

#### Requirements Differ for Subsequent Wellness Visits

The subsequent AWV requires a lesser evaluation than the initial AWV, as follows:

- 1. Update the patient's past family, medical, and surgical history.
- 2. Update the list of the patient's current health care providers.
- 3. Measure the patient's vital signs and BMI.
- 4. Reassess the patient's cognitive ability.
- 5. Update the preventive health services schedule developed at the initial AWV.
- Update the list of risk factors for which intervention is recommended.
- 7. Document the identified health risks, and provide advice and referral, as indicated, for the identified risks from both this encounter and the initial AWV.

The most significant difference between the initial and

subsequent AWVs is that the latter does not include depression or fall risk screenings. These are relatively easy to complete as part of the evaluation, however, and providers would be well advised to perform and document initial and subsequent AWVs in a similar manner.

By requirement, the patient must receive a written summary of the risk assessment and recommendations. This summary must include a preventive care screening schedule for the next five to 10 years, and should document counseling and referrals, as necessary,

Dear Patients and Friends,

Recently, the details of the new yearly physical examination for Medicare beneficiaries were unveiled by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). However, this new benefit is not exactly what most of us would consider an annual physical exam. It is, rather, more of an "evaluation." Medicare acknowledges as much, in that they have renamed the benefit the "annual wellness visit."

The purpose of this letter is to explain this benefit to you so you will understand how these government-mandated changes will affect your annual visit.

The new "annual wellness visit" is intended to assess:

- · The patient's risk for depression;
- · The patient's cognitive ability;
- · The patient's risks for falls or injury;
- · Generate a list of the patient's current health care providers; and
- · Determine and recommend the preventive health services that are due.

There is virtually no physical examination required, and the encounter focuses on interviewing and updating portions of your medical history.

It is important that we implement this new visit. When properly and thoughtfully undertaken, this benefit should help identify patients at risk for serious health issues. Medicare also has begun keeping a scorecard to see how well physicians are providing certain services, which likely will soon include this new benefit. Doctors who don't provide this new service could be ranked as "underperforming" by Medicare. This may lead to financial and administrative penalties. To comply with the new requirements, our office must make changes in how we handle your annual visit.

For most of you with stable chronic health conditions, it is only necessary to be seen two or three times a year. To perform this new benefit as a separate service, an additional trip to the office each year would be required, and many patients would find this inconvenient. To avoid an extra office visit, we plan to include the new benefit at your annual examination

This new visit format will mean that the nurse will spend more time with you completing the required screening questionnaires. Accordingly, the doctor's time with you will be focused on an examination pertinent to your continuing health issues, explaining the results of the screening tests, and going over the status of your preventive care screenings.

When you come in for your annual wellness visit, the staff will go over a series of questions with you. These are not random questions, but are widely accepted screening instruments for identifying depression and dementia risks, and safety hazards. You may find this process silly or perhaps even insulting, but please be patient and understanding as we try our best to implement these mandates in the required manner.

You can review the wellness visit requirements at this web address: www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/AnnualWellnessVisit.pdf. In addition, we will keep copies of the visit requirements, as well as the screening questionnaires, at our office for your review.

We plan to implement these changes in <<month>>. If you do not want to participate in the new annual wellness visit, you will need to sign a waiver to that effect. If you choose to opt out of the new benefit, we will see you for the "old" style annual physical exam, but this would likely be an out-of-pocket, uncovered expense for you.

Change is often difficult, but we are hopeful we can implement this new requirement in a way that is not disruptive to our primary goal of working to ensure your health and well being. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Yours truly,

<< Provider Name>>

for all the health risks identified in the AWV. The record should document that the points of the summary were reviewed with the patient, and that the patient received a copy of the summary.

#### **Timing Is Everything**

The initial preventive physical examination (IPPE) or "welcome to Medicare exam," the initial AWV, and all subsequent AWVs must occur at least one year apart. The IPPE also must take place within six months of the patient's Medicare eligibility. Providers must pay attention to the timing of these evalu-

ations to ensure proper reimbursement. Patients are eligible for only one AWV per year, so it will be important to determine whether the patient might have had an AWV from another provider in the previous 12 months.

### A Win-Win for Patients and Providers

The AWV will be a significant source of revenue for providers. As aforementioned, CMS also specifically has allowed distinct and separate E/M services to be provided and billed at the same encounter. As providers learn of the significant revenue available from these evaluations, there likely will be a stampede of interest in providing the AWV.

If undertaken without careful forethought and planning, billing for the AWV could be a trap waiting to ensnare your providers. When correctly implemented, however, the AWV will help to improve the health and wellbeing of many elderly patients. As coders,

we can help shoulder the responsibility of seeing that the key elements of the AWV are provided before the service is submitted for payment. By understanding and explaining the proper application of CMS rules in the provision of the AWV, coders can help ensure this unique encounter is a win-win for the provider team and the patient.



Dr. Spain has been engaged in the full time practice of family medicine for over 25 years. In 1998, he founded Doc-U-Chart, a practice management consulting firm specializing in medical documentation. Dr. Spain can be reached at sspain@docuchart.com.

By Denise Williams, RN, CPC-H

## Meet Criteria for

## **IP-only Procedures**

### **Under the OPPS**

## Reimbursement depends on whether services are inside or outside the scope of payment.

ince the initiation of the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has maintained a list of procedures that are covered and reimbursed to facility providers only when provided on an inpatient (IP) basis.

#### What Is an "IP-only Procedure?"

Section 1833(t)(1)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act gives the secretary "broad authority" to decide which services will be covered and reimbursed under the OPPS, and which services fall outside the scope of payment under the OPPS. CMS bases its coverage decision on three established criteria:

- 1. The invasive nature of the procedure
- 2. The need for at least 24 hours of postoperative recovery time or monitoring before the patient can be discharged safely
- 3. The underlying physical condition of the patient undergoing the procedure

Based on a review of all invasive procedures performed for the Medicare population, CMS' medical advisors and staff determine which procedures always should be performed on an IP basis—either because they are not safe or appropriate to perform on an outpatient (OP) basis, or because acceptable medical practice dictates that IP status is the only acceptable environment.

The IP-only list is reviewed yearly by the CMS medical staff and APC Advisory Panel, is opened to public comment regarding which procedures might be removed, and then is updated each year in the OPPS rulemaking cycle. The procedures are assigned to Status Indicator C in Addendum B, and listed as a group in Addendum E.

The IP procedure list is national coverage policy and binding on all entities providing care (hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs)) or adjudicating payment (fiscal intermediaries (FIs)/Medicare administrative contractors (MACs), Peer Review Organizations) under the OPPS. If a procedure on the IP-only list is performed on an OP basis and reported on an OP claim, no payment is made to the facility for the IP procedure or for any other services provided on the same date of service. All services that would have been paid as an OP are not reimbursed because they were performed with an IP-only procedure.

There are two exceptions to the non-payment rule:

- An IP-only procedure is provided to a patient who expires before being admitted as an IP, or is transferred before being admitted as an IP. The IP-only procedure is reported with modifier CA Procedure payable only in the IP setting when performed emergently on an OP who dies prior to admission and a flat rate payment is made to the facility.
- 2. The IP-only procedure is defined by CPT® as a "separate procedure," and there is another procedure on the claim that is payable under OPPS and assigned status indicator T Significant procedure subject to multiple procedure discounting that is paid by APC. The line item for the IP-only procedure is denied but the other services are reimbursed.

#### **Why It Matters**

CMS believes that physicians consider what is in the best interest of the individual patient, and take into account both the risk of providing the service in an OP scenario and the individual clinical situation. Hospitals and ASCs provide services based on physician order and direction. Yet, although payment is denied on the OPPS side for these procedures, payment is not denied to the physician because professional reimbursement is not provided under OPPS.

For example, a physician can determine that OP status is appropriate for the individual procedure, document this in the patient's record, perform the invasive procedure and receive reimbursement, while the facility that provided the surgical suite, staff, and equipment is denied payment because the procedure HCPCS code is assigned to the IP-only list, and national coverage policy states this is not a reimbursable service under the OPPS.

To prevent this outcome, the hospital/ASC needs the physician to write an order for IP status to meet the CMS requirements for the service that was rendered.

#### **Education Is Key**

CMS has tasked hospitals and ASCs with educating physicians on the need to admit the patient as an IP for procedures on the IP-only list so the facility can receive reimbursement for the procedure. This has been difficult because the payment methodologies for the There is a lot of pressure on physicians to practice based on insurance rules, and here is yet another "rule" to follow that doesn't affect them directly.

same service are different, and physicians may not be familiar with the IP-only list.

Hospitals have attempted to educate physicians on the IP-only rule with mixed reviews. There is a lot of pressure on physicians to practice based on insurance rules, and here is yet another "rule" to follow that doesn't affect them directly.

Over time, the most difficult scenario under which to manage an IPonly procedure has been when the planned procedure is an OP procedure, but based on the clinical scenario present during the performance of the procedure, an IP procedure ultimately is performed. Coding is not done during the procedure, so the actual code assignment is not known until the physician's dictated report is available. For OP procedures, the patient has been discharged and no IP order was written. And, no order equals no payment.

There usually are a specific number of IP-only procedures that are identified as being most commonly performed on an OP basis for an individual facility. Using this list as a starting point will help focus education efforts. Education is most successful when physicians understand that what affects the hospital in this case, also affects physicians and their patients. A team effort is required to provide appropriate care for the beneficiary while meeting the rules/requirements for Medicare reimbursement.

The mechanism of providing this education depends on the individual hospital environment: Some have found one-on-one education with physician and office staff to be effective; some have found that a group gathering is beneficial; others have disseminated information through the individual discipline divisions with assistance from the MedExec committee or division chiefs.

#### References

CMS Claims Processing Manual (pub 100-04), chapter 4, section 180.7 CMS-1504-FC (Federal Register/vol. 75, No. 226 / Wed., Nov. 24, 2010) HCFA-1005-FC (Federal Register/vol. 65, No. 68 / Friday, Apr. 7, 2000) CMS-1206-FC (Federal Register/vol. 68, No. 216 / Friday, Nov. 7, 2003)



Denise Williams, RN, CPC-H, is the director of revenue integrity services for Health Revenue Assurance Associates, Inc. She has been involved with APCs since their initiation. Denise also has worked as corporate chargemaster manager for two health care systems, and is heavily involved in compliance and coding/billing edits and issues.

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By Brad Ericson, MPC, CPC, COSC

## Make the Most of CPT® at Your Fingertips

#### AMA's official guide is now more helpful than ever.

oders always are on the lookout for tips and tools to improve job performance and efficiency. Among the very best resources is one that coders use every day (and may take for granted): The CPT° book. The CPT° book is more than just a list of codes and parenthetical instructions, and even advanced coders would benefit from re-familiarizing themselves with all it has to offer.

#### Be Complete, Be Current

The CPT® Professional Edition is published each year by the American Medical Association (AMA), and is available as a print publication, as a CD, or via the Internet (the electronic version may be configured for one or more users). The AMA owns the copyright to the codes, their descriptions, and guidelines for use. You may purchase AMA's CPT® Professional Edition through AAPC and other vendors. Only the AMA CPT® Professional Edition is permitted for use in AAPC credentialing exams, and it is the only version that includes official guidelines.

Be sure you're always using the most current version of the CPT® book. Codes and coding guidelines change every year, and if you're using an outdated edition, your coding accuracy is guaranteed to suffer. Saving a few dollars by using last year's edition is no bargain when you consider the inevitability of miscoded, delayed, and/or rejected claims. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) also requires the use of current CPT® codes, so if an auditor finds you using an outdated CPT® book, you will solicit little sympathy.

#### Take a Tour of CPT®

The typical busy coder references the CPT® index as needed, double-checks the code(s) and parenthetical instruction in the numerical listings, codes that portion of the claim, and quickly moves on. The wise coder knows, however, that it's worth investing time to study the book a bit more closely. The introductory materials, for instance, aren't just filler. These often-overlooked portions of the book are invaluable resources.

You've probably noticed the list of modifiers and modifier descriptors on the front inside cover, and the Place of Service (POS) code listing on the facing page, but what if you venture a few pages further?

The Introduction (pages x-xiii of the *CPT*\* 2011 *Professional Edition*) summarizes the layout of the CPT\* book, how the codes are listed and defined, and modifier use; and defines terminology and the various symbols used throughout the book. Sure, this is basic information. But, just as you must know how to add and subtract before you can do long division or solve algebraic equations, so too does complex coding rely on a solid understanding of fundamental concepts. You're never too advanced to review the essentials, and it's wise to do so with every new release. Several icons and features are new in the last decade.

#### Which Way Is Up?

Pages xiv-xviii of *CPT*\* 2011 *Professional Edition* provide a list of medical prefixes, suffixes, and word roots, as well as anatomic illustrations demonstrating body planes and aspects (sagittal plane, anterior aspect, etc.) and a list of illustrations that appear throughout the book. For example:

- Curious about brain anatomy? See Figure 18A.
- Want a pictorial explanation of abdominal aortic aneurysm repair? See the illustration that accompanies code 34802 Endovascular repair of infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm or dissection; using bifurcated prosthesis (1 docking limb).

Often, a visual representation of a concept or procedure allows the coder literally to picture the correct coding, and the CPT° book provides a great variety of resources to facilitate this.

#### E/M Tables Simplify Code Selection

The *CPT* \*\* *Professional Edition* contains tables in the Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services Guidelines section listing the required key components and, when applicable, typical service time for various categories/levels of E/M services (office or other outpatient services, initial hospital care, etc.). These tables provide an at-a-glance reference to help you select an appropriate E/M service level when the key components and/or counseling/coordination of care time have been documented and determined.

#### Decision Tree Takes a Vacation, but Still Applies

The New vs. Established Patient Decision Tree, which previously was included in the Evaluation and Management

Often, a visual representation of a concept or procedure allows the coder literally to picture the correct coding, and the CPT® book provides a great variety of resources to facilitate this.

(E/M) Services Guidelines section, does not appear in the CPT® 2011 Professional Edition. Peter A. Hollmann, MD, vice chair of the AMA CPT® Editorial Panel, announced on Nov. 10, 2010 at the CPT® and RBRVS 2011 Annual Symposium in Chicago that the omission of the New vs. Established Patient Decision Tree from CPT® 2011 does not represent a change in policy regarding how to determine whether a patient is new or established. The definition of "new" and "established" patients in the Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services Guidelines remains unchanged from 2010. Hollmann predicts the New vs. Established Patient Decision Tree will reappear in the 2012 edition of CPT®.

#### Be on the Lookout for Coding Tips

Also new for 2011, the AMA has included supplemental coding tips throughout CPT® Professional Edition. These tips, set apart with a green "Coding Tip" indicator, provide valuable information for appropriate code selection, and are separate from the parenthetical and section head instructions most coders already know.

For example, preceding the Other Emergency Services codes, CPT® 2011 Professional Edition includes a Coding Tip advising, "No distinction is made between new and established patients in the emergency department. E/M services in the emergency department category may be reported for any new or established patient who presents for treatment in the emergency department." Be sure to read and observe such Coding Tips to assist you in your code choices.

The Coding Tips are concentrated in the E/M portion of CPT° for 2011, but look for these helpful hints to become more widespread in years to come.

#### Follow Citations for Supplemental Coding Advice

Throughout CPT® you will find citations to CPT® Assistant (designated by an arrow within a green circle) and Clinical Examples in Radiology (designated by an arrow within a red circle). Although not an official part of the CPT® book, advice from either of these publications provides supplemental information on, and examples of, proper code use. These citations are useful especially when differentiating among several similar codes (or modifiers). The extra legwork to find and follow the citation often pays for itself.

To give just one example: If you must report colpopexy (57280 Colpopexy, abdominal approach, 57282 Colpopexy, vaginal; extra-peritoneal approach (sacrospinous, iliococcygeus), 27284 Colpopexy, vaginal; intra-peritoneal approach (uterosacral, levator myorrhaphy) the CPT® Assistant reference (January 1997) instructs, "during reconstructive pelvic surgery, when either a vaginal or abdominal paravaginal defect repair is performed for correction of stress urinary incontinence or cystocele formation, and in addition a separate procedure for correction of vaginal vault inversion such a sacrospinous ligament fixation (code 57282) or an abdominal colpopexy (code 57820) is performed, codes 57282 or 57280 with modifier 51 may be reported in addition to 57284."

Lacking this information, the coder may fail to report 57282, when appropriate, in addition to 57284. This translates into 7.97 physician work relative value units (RVUs) lost, or approximately \$250 at average Medicare rates.

Subscriptions to CPT \*Assistant and Clinical Examples in Radiology, as well as archives of past issues, are available through the AMA (https://catalog.ama-assn.org/Catalog/home.jsp).

#### But Wait! There's More!

CPT° contains supplemental information in addition to that described above, including appendices with clinical examples, a summary of codes exempt from modifiers 51 Multiple procedures and 63 Procedure performed on infants less than 4 kgs, a list of separate nerves for electrodiagnostic testing (especially helpful for neurology coders), and much more. There's also a handy list of common abbreviations on the inside back cover. In other words, there's probably more to your CPT® book than you knew.

Take the time to page through your CPT° book and identify those resources that you find most helpful. Remember, it's not a sacred text: You're allowed (and encouraged) to make notes in the margins, underline and highlight pertinent information, add your own tabs for easy reference, or incorporate "cheat sheets" within its pages. If you make the most of the resources at hand, your value as a coder appreciates.

Brad Ericson, MPC, CPC, COSC, is AAPC director of publishing.

#### Case Study: The Fundamentals of Time

If you haven't reviewed the Introduction recently, you might be surprised to discover a new (added in 2011) explanatory paragraph on Time, as it relates to CPT® coding. Here you'll find essential time information. Unless there are code or code-range-specific instructions in guidelines, parenthetical instructions, or code descriptors to the contrary:

• Time is face-to-face time with the patient.

Note that many inpatient services, as well as subsequent observation care 99224-99226 (technically an outpatient service) define time as bedside or floor/unit time. This is one case where descriptor-specific instructions override general guidelines.

- Phrases such as "interpretation and report" in the code descriptor are not intended to indicate in all cases that report writing is part of the reported time.
- A unit of time is attained when the mid-point is passed.

As an example, critical care services (99291-99292) are time based, with 99291 Critical care, evaluation and management of the critically ill or critically injured patient; first 30-74 minutes reporting the first hour of critical care. To report 99291, the length of service must exceed the "half-way" mark, or at least 31 minutes. Critical care lasting fewer than 31 minutes is reported using an appropriate evaluation and management (E/M) code, rather than 99291. Similarly, +99292 Critical care, evaluation and management of the critically ill or critically injured patient; each additional 30 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary service) reports "each additional 30 minutes" of critical care, in excess of the first hour. This means that to report +99292, at least 75 minutes of critical care must be documented (60 minutes for the first hour, plus at least 15 minutes—the "halfway mark"—to report the additional 30 minutes of critical care as reported by +99292).

 When codes are ranked in sequential typical times and the actual time is between the two typical times, the code with the typical time closest to the actual time is used.

For instance, when reporting a time-based E/M service for an established outpatient, the documented

counseling/coordination of care time is 22 minutes. By CPT® standards, this would mean the proper coding is 99214 (Physicians typically spend 25 minutes face-to-face with the patient and/or family), rather than 99213 (Physicians typically spend 15 minutes face-to-face with the patient and/or family), because 22 is closer to 25 than to 15. Note that not all payers agree with this rule. For example, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) typically views the E/M reference time as the *minimum* time needed to report a service.

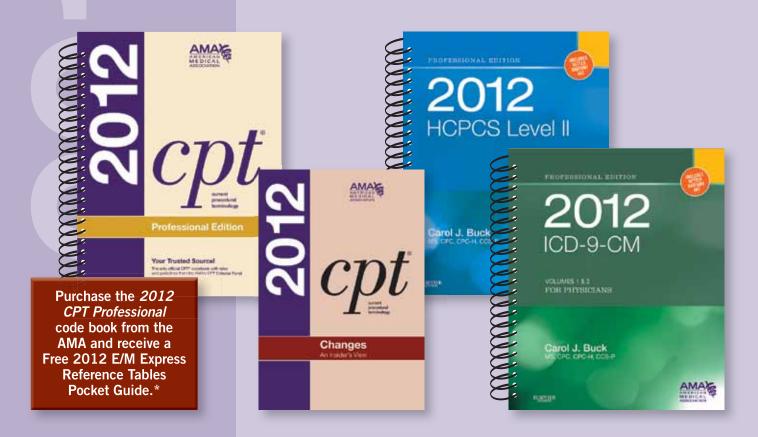
 When another service is performed concurrently with a time-based service, the time associated with the concurrent service should not be included in the time used for reporting the time-based service.

Time spent performing separately-reported services concurrent with critical care services 99291-99292 may not be counted toward critical care time. The Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services Guidelines also have undergone revisions for 2011 to clarify better how time relates to E/M services. A summary of the additions include:

- Verification that non-face-to-face (pre- and postencounter) time may not be included when calculating total time for an office service
- Notification that the total work of E/M services has been calculated to include non-face-to-face time
- A restatement that time shall be considered the key factor for E/M leveling, when counseling and coordination of care dominate the encounter
- A determination that counseling or coordination of care includes time spent with patients or those individual(s) (including non-family members) who have assumed responsibility for the patient
- A requirement that the extent of counseling and/ or coordination of care must be documented in the medical record
- Advice to report add-on codes for prolonged E/M services

The introductory materials ... aren't just filler. These often-overlooked portions of the book are invaluable resources.

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By Jill M. Young, CPC, CEDC, CIMC

## Meet Stress Testing Supervision Requirements

Provider rules change depending on whether you're reporting for inpatient or outpatient services.



hen reported to Medicare, cardiac (93015-93024) and pulmonary (94620-94621) stress tests must meet applicable supervision requirements. You also must remember that in the outpatient setting only a physician—never a non-physician practitioner (NPP)—may act as the supervising entity for diagnostic tests.

#### Know the Supervision Levels Required

Medicare specifies supervision requirements for all diagnostic services, as found in the "Physician Supervision of Diagnostic Procedures" column of the National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File. The file lists the following supervision requirement indicators for stress tests:

Code Requirement	Short Descriptor	Supervision
93015	Cardio stress test/w physician supervision/w interp. and report	2
93016	Cardio stress test/supervision only	2
93017	Cardio stress test/tracing only	2
93018	Cardio stress test/interp. and report only	9
93024	Ergonovine provocation test/global service	9
93024-TC	Ergonovine provocation test/tech. comp. only	3
93024-26	Ergonovine provocation test/prof. comp. only	9
93025	Microvolt assessment of ventricular arrhythmias/global service	2
93025-TC	Microvolt assessment of ventricular arrhythmias/tech. comp. only	2
93025-26	Microvolt assessment of ventricular arrhythmias/prof. comp. only	2
94620	Pulmonary stress test/simple/global service	9
94620-TC	Pulmonary stress test/simple/tech. comp. only	1
94620-26	Pulmonary stress test/simple/prof. comp. only	9
94621	Pulmonary stress test/complex/global service	9
94621-TC	Pulmonary stress test/complex/tech. comp. only	2
94621-26	Pulmonary stress test/complex/prof. comp. only	9

### The supervision requirement indicators correspond to the following supervision levels:

**1—**Procedure must be performed under general supervision: The procedure is furnished under the physician's overall direction and control. The physician must order the diagnostic test and is responsible for training the staff performing the tests, as well as maintaining the testing equipment. He or she does not need to be present in the room during the procedure.

**2**—Procedure must be performed under direct supervision: The physician needn't be present in the room, but must not be performing another procedure that cannot be interrupted, and must not be so far away that he or she could not provide timely assistance.

In the physician office, and for hospital outpatient diagnostic services provided under arrangement in nonhospital locations (such as independent diagnostic testing facilities and physicians' offices), the supervising phy-

Only "a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine in his or her state of practice," may act as a supervisory physician for diagnostic services in an outpatient setting (hospital outpatient or physician office).

sician must be present in the office suite and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure.

For services furnished directly or under arrangement in the hospital or an on-campus provider-based department (PBD), the supervising physician must be present on the same campus and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure. That is, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) permits direct supervision from locations that are not in the hospital space, but that are "close," as long as the physician is immediately available.

- 3—Procedure must be performed under personal supervision: A physician must be in the room during the performance of the procedure.
- **9**—Concept does not apply: A physician must perform the service personally. This usually denotes the professional component of a service, or a global service that includes/bundles the professional component. Tip: You may download the Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File from the CMS website at: http://cms.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/ PFSRVF/list.asp?listpage=4. Select the most recent (last-listed file) for download.

As an example, a full cardio stress test (93015) must be performed under direct supervision (at a minimum), while the technical component of an ergonovine provocation (93024-TC) must be performed under the personal supervision of the physician. To report the global ergonovine provocation test (93024), the physician personally must perform the service.

#### **Use Caution When Involving NPPs**

"Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives who do not meet the definition of 'physician' may not function as supervisory physicians for the purposes of diagnostic tests," according to the 2010 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule (Federal Register, Nov. 20, 2009). Many times we see our NPPs and physicians listed together as a provider type, but when it comes to supervision for these tests, this cannot be the case. Only "a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine in his or her state of practice," may act as a supervisory physician for diagnostic services in an outpatient setting (hospital outpatient or physician office). And, the supervising physician must have the "knowledge, skills, ability and privileges to perform the service or procedure"—so not just any doctor will do.

Note that Medicare physician supervision requirements do not apply to hospital inpatient services. For inpatient services, CMS defers to hospital policy and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards.

Medicare specifies that NPPs (such as physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse specialists, certified nurse midwife) may order, perform, and bill for diagnostic tests as specifically granted under their state Scope of License, but Public Health Code and other regulations in place still require overarching physician collaboration, or a level of supervision by physicians, in the performance of these tests. To quote the Medicare Benefits Policy Manual, chapter 6, section 20.4.5:

"exceptions ... allow some diagnostic tests furnished by certain nonphysician practitioners to be furnished without physician supervision. While these nonphysician practitioners including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives cannot provide the required physician supervision when other hospital staff are performing diagnostic tests, when these nonphysician practitioners personally perform a diagnostic service they must meet only the physician supervision requirements that are prescribed under the Medicare coverage rules at 42 CFR Part 410 for that type of practitioner when they directly provide a service. For example, under 410.75 nurse practitioners must work in collaboration with a physician, and under 410.74 physician assistants must practice under the general supervision of a physician."

The compliance implications of these requirements need to be considered in your practice, particularly if you are performing stress tests. At a minimum, for diagnostic tests in the outpatient setting:

- Be sure that the physician documents specifically the level of supervision provided. CMS guidelines specify, "Documentation maintained by the billing provider must be able to demonstrate that the required physician supervision is furnished."
- NPPs never may act as a supervising physician.

An NPP looking to order or perform a specific test first should check at a state level to determine if he or she is qualified to do so. If a midlevel provider administers the test without physician supervision, the medical record should document clearly that the service is within the provider's scope of practice as allowed by state law, and the procedure billed under the name of the NPP.



Jill M. Young, CPC, CEDC, CIMC, has over 30 years of medical experience working in all areas of medical practice including clinical, billing, and rounding with physicians. This gives her a unique style of teaching using real life examples of coding and billing situations in her lectures. She is the principal of Young Medical Consulting, LLC, and is the current chair of AAPC Chapter Association (AAPCCA).

#### You speak this language...

#### What about this language?

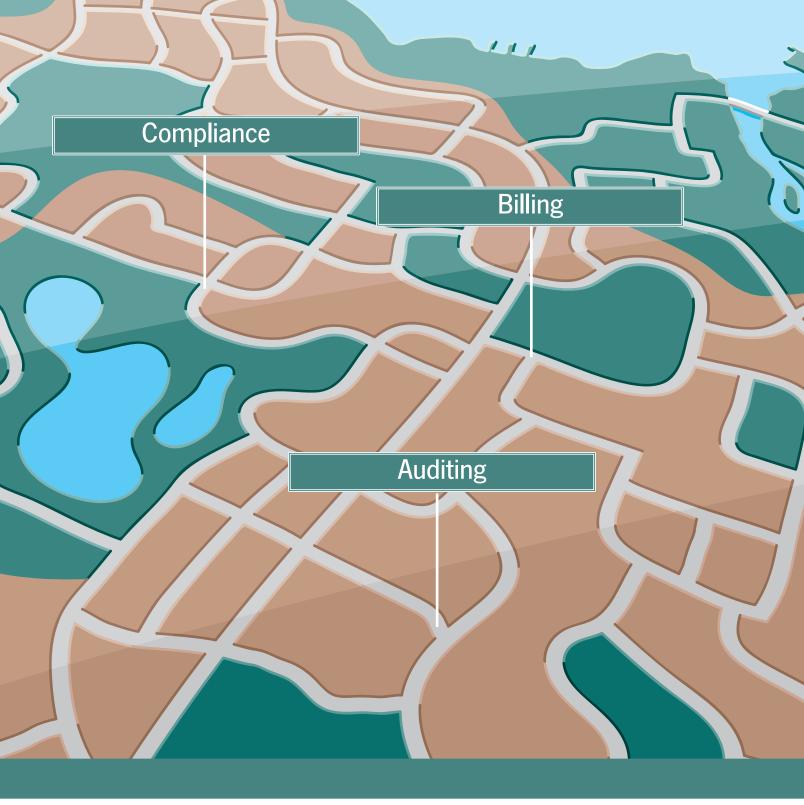
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Cover Feature

## Find Your Coding Career Path

By Michelle A. Dick

New NAB president focuses on the future as the health care industry changes and opens career options for coders. AAPC's newest National Advisory Board (NAB) President Cynthia L. Stewart, CPC, CPC-H, CPMA, CPC-I, CCS-P, shows strength, coding enthusiasm, and commitment, and has a sweet disposition that makes her the perfect leader to represent AAPC members.

Stewart has worn many hats during her 25 years in the medical profession and has been an outspoken advocate for AAPC since she joined in 1998. Stewart has been with the NAB for the past four years, since 2007, and will serve as president for the next two.

#### **Experience Paves Career Path**

Before Stewart became an NAB member, president-elect, and president, she held office as president for the Central Indiana chapter in Indianapolis in 2006. Here, she gained leadership experience and applied her coding experience to help fellow coders. She is an AAPC workshop presenter and has provided instruction as a reviewer, contributing author, and research assistant for various coding and billing texts.

Over the past 15 years, Stewart has applied her coding knowledge to many positions:

- billing supervisor
- practice manager
- senior coding specialist
- coding and reimbursement
- director of medical billing and coding specialist and health care management programs

Her coding and leadership experience has brought her to the current position of revenue cycle systems manager with St. Vincent Health in Indianapolis.

Stewart's coding specialties are in neurosurgery, neuro-interventional, anesthesia, and orthopedics.



Stewart has been blessed with the help of many people in attaining her coding goals. "There have been so many people who have boosted me while I pursued my goals. Two in particular rise to the top of the list: my father and Deb Grider," Stewart says.

Stewart's father, Lee Stewart, rank Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO 4), had an Army career spanning 1950-1975 and was a Korean and Vietnam War veteran. Because Stewart's father served in many dif-

About ICD-10, Stewart says, "It is the largest and most complex change in health care history, but with proper training and continuing education, our AAPC coders should thrive in the future of health care."

ferent locations, she lived in Germany when she was a child. Like Stewart, her father wore many hats including steel warehouse supervisor and instructor for

H&R Block. Stewart said that her father "challenged me to find something I could do well and encouraged me to take it further." With his strength and encouragement

behind her, she faced each new challenge along her coding career path.

Deborah Grider, CPC, CPC-H, CPC-I, CPC-P, CEMC, CPMA, COB-GC, CPCD, CCS-P, recalls when she first met Stewart, "I met Cyndi many years ago when she first walked into my PMCC class.

We both hail from Indiana and became good friends and colleagues." Since then, Grider said, "Cyndi has been working in the health care industry for many years, as a down-in-the-trenches coder to now as a consultant for a large hospital system." Stewart recalled being a student in Grider's class and how it affected the fate of her career. She said, "Deb Grider really did have something to teach me and has been my mentor ever since that fateful course."

#### **Exciting Times Lie Ahead**

It's an exciting time for Stewart to be president, when there are so many career options for coders and big changes in the health care industry. In fact, during her term as president-elect two new credentials, Certified Professional Medical Auditor (CPMA®) and Certified Professional Compliance Officer (CPCO™), broadened coding career options for coding professionals. These two credentials are fitting additions in the current health care climate, where government regulations and compliant coding is a necessity.

Stewart's NAB is dedicated to moving AAPC into the future and finding new ways to expand the coder's role and their career options in the health care industry. This is an exciting time when coders have a wide range of career options, including:

- biller
- consultant
- auditor
- compliance officer
- teacher/Professional Medical Coding Curriculum (PMCC) instructor
- specialty coder

#### ICD-10 Will Change Everything

The transition to ICD-10 is another big milestone that coders are faced with over the next couple of years. The coder plays an important part in helping to make a smoother transition. Education is key and a coder's knowledge is invaluable and vital to troubleshooting potential coding problems before the Oct. 11, 2013 implementation date arrives.

**PMCC Instruction** 

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Coding

**Specialty Coding** 

About ICD-10, Stewart says, "It is the largest and most complex change in health care history, but with proper training and continuing educa-

tion, our AAPC coders should thrive in the future of health care."

Stewart is excited to be part of AAPC as it evolves with the health care industry's needs. What excites her most

about AAPC? "The constant change while we work to stay on top of the health care industry and the support we give each other while meeting this chal-

lenge," she says. Stewart says she sees its members as a support system taking the coding profession to higher levels and expanding it in new directions.

#### **Besides Coding, What Else Is There?**

Stewart is the mother of two children, Callie, 25, and Adam, 17, and Nana to two "precious" grandchildren, Keegan, 6, and Madysen, 3. Her grandchildren keep her laughing and on her toes.

Stewart says, "Employment in the medical field seems to run in the family." She takes pride in the decision both her children have made to follow her into the medical field, "unfortunately not as coders," Stewart jokes. Callie is a medical assistant with plans to continue her education to become a nurse practitioner. And as her son prepares to enter his senior year, he is dedicating himself to his studies to prepare for medical school. Stewart's sister, Peggy Johnson, also works in the field as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and has been a ready source of clinical information when needed.

When Stewart is not working she enjoys recreational activities and keeping busy. She has a different hobby, or two, for every season:

- Winter: reading and writing
- Spring: gardening and fishing
- Summer: boating and camping
- Fall: cooking

Stewart also likes to travel. "As the child of a Dutch mother and military father I have lived and traveled all over the world." She has seen a lot of countries, but says if she had to choose one place to go for two weeks that was far away from coding, it would be Tuscany. She'd keep busy while she was there. "I like to stay busy so I would have to say two weeks in Tuscany learning to cook real Italian dishes and taking pictures would be wonderful," Stewart says.

When she has time for television, she enjoys watching her favorite shows, "House" and "The Big Bang Theory," which she records to watch later with her son.

Michelle A. Dick is senior editor at AAPC.

Don't Be Confused by the Fee-Setting Process Anymore!

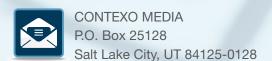


As we all know, setting fees isn't an art but a science. With straightforward instructions, real-world examples, and easy-to-understand formulas, the RBRVS Calculator is a well-organized resource that will help clarify the fee-setting process.

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By Kim M. Ross, OCS, CPC

## Keep Your Practice Up-to-date on 2011 Ophthalmology

Find out what's been revised, added, and deleted within CPT®s extensive changes.

CPT° 2011 features significant changes to both Category I and Category III codes that eye doctors and their billers ought to know.

#### **Changes in Cornea**

Amniotic membrane may be used for ocular surface reconstruction by several methods, at varying levels of physician effort. CPT° represents this hierarchy of services with two new codes and one revised code:

- 65778 Placement of amniotic membrane on the ocular surface for wound healing; self-retaining
- 65779 Placement of amniotic membrane on the ocular surface for wound healing; single layer, sutured
- ▲ **65780** Ocular surface reconstruction; amniotic membrane transplantation, multiple layers

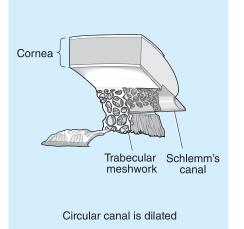
These changes have prompted a slew of questions:

- Q. What are the global periods and typical allowables for 65778 and 65779?
- A. Per the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), 65778 and 65779 carry a 10-day global period (65780 remains at 90 days).

The typical allowable depends on whether you perform the procedure in the office (65778 - \$947/65779 - \$857) or in a facility (65778 - \$57/65779 - \$219). The cost of the tissue is built into the practice expense when performed in the office (thus, the higher allowable for office procedures). When the surgery is performed in a facility, the facility must pay for the tissue (a "pass through" for amniotic membrane was revoked).



CPT® 2011 eliminates two Category III codes for canaloplasty ... and adds two new Category I codes.



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- Q. Can 65778 and 65779 be billed with 65430, 65435, and/or 62780?
- A. No. CPT° instructs that neither 65778 nor 65779 should be billed with 65430 Scraping of cornea, diagnostic, for smear and/or culture, 65435 Removal of corneal epithelium; with or without chemocauterization (abrasion, curettage), or 65780.
- Q. Which code should we use for tissue glue?
- A. CPT° specifies that you should use 66999 *Unlisted procedure, anterior segment of eye* for placement of amniotic membrane using tissue glue.
- Q. A pterygium is removed and, rather than

placing an autograft, the physician applies a single sutured layer of amniotic membrane. How should this be coded?

A. In the office, 65779 with the appropriate eye modifier appended should be listed first because it has the highest allowable, followed by 65420 *Excision* 

or transposition of pterygium; without graft with modifier 51 *Multiple procedure* and an appropriate eye modifier appended.

Note: Many payers no longer require modifier 51—check with your payer for specifics.

In an ambulatory surgical center (ASC), submit 65420 first, followed by 65779 with the appropriate eye modifier.

Note: In the office setting, the physician bares the expense of the amniotic tissue and the reimbursement is higher for 65779. When performed in the ASC, the tissue is bundled into the facility payment for the procedure, and 65420 pays higher.

- Q. If a pterygium is removed and both an autograft and a single sutured layer of amniotic membrane are used (e.g., for a very large defect), how would this be coded?
- A. In the office, use 65779 with an eye modifier and 65426 Excision or transposition of pterygium; with graft with an eye modifier. Payment will be 100 percent of the allowable for the first procedure, and 50 percent of the allowable for the second procedure. If performed in the ASC, 65426 with an appropriate eye modifier should be submitted first because in this setting 65426 has the higher allowable.
- Q. How do we code for the ProKera ring?
- A. Report 65778.
- Q. If a ProKera® ring is inserted post-operatively within the global period of another cornea procedure, how should the doctor bill?
- A. If planned prospectively, use 65778 with modifier 58 *Staged or related procedure or service by the same physician during the post-operative period*. Payment will be 100 percent of the allowable. You'll need to begin a new 90-day global period.
  - If the procedure was not preplanned, submit 65778 with modifier 78 *Unplanned return to the operating/procedure room by the same physician or other qualified health care professional following initial procedure for a related procedure during the postoperative period.* Payment will be 80 percent of the allowable. Continue the global period of the original procedure.
- Q. If laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) is performed and the postoperative ProKera® is for a medical reason, can a claim be submitted using 65778?
- A. In the case of a medical complication that results from a noncovered procedure, payment is up to the individual payer's coverage policy.
- Q. If multiple layers of amniotic membrane are used with pterygium surgery, without an autograft, is it appropriate to submit both 65420 and 65780?
- A. No. The appropriate code is 65426. This code's descriptor does not specify the material used, or how many layers are used. CPT° 65780 is for ocular surface reconstruction plus multiple-sutured layers of amniotic membrane. The problem with using 65420

plus 65780 is that the physician would be paid twice for removing the pterygium.

There is no code for multiplelayer amniotic membrane transplantation performed as an addon procedure; in such a scenario, an unlisted procedure code (e.g., 66999) would be used. The dramatic increase in the number of SCODI procedures being billed each year put 92135 in the crosshairs of CMS.

- Q. How should we code when a single layer amniotic graft is used with sutures and glue?
- A. Report 65779.
- Q. How should we code for placement of amniotic membrane, without reconstruction, using self-retaining or single-layer suture technique?
- **A.** For the self-retaining technique, use 65778; for the single-layer suture technique, use 65779.
- Q. Which is the proper code for multiple layers of amniograft used for ocular surface reconstruction?
- A. Code 65780.

#### **Changes in Glaucoma**

CPT° 2011 eliminates two Category III codes for canaloplasty—0176T and 0177T—and adds two new Category I codes (both of which have a 90-day global period when paid under the MPFS):

- **66174** Transluminal dilation of aqueous outflow canal; without retention of device or stent
- **66175** Transluminal dilation of aqueous outflow canal; with retention of device or stent

Canaloplasty is an advanced treatment for glaucoma that uses microcatheter technology to enlarge the eye's natural drainage system (in a manner similar to angioplasty), thereby helping the aqueous fluid drain properly.

New Category III code 0253T Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir; internal approach, into the suprachoroidal space (Glaukos shunt) was created specifically to address the route of aqueous egress into the suprachoroidal space. This code is listed out of sequence: The entry for 0253T appears between 0191T Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir; internal approach, into the trabecular meshwork and 0192T Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir; external approach.

The MPFS does not include relative value units (RVUs) or values for Category III codes. If Medicare covers the test, payment is at the discretion of the Medicare administrative contractor (MAC), and payments likely will vary. Many MACs have published local cov-

erage determinations (LCDs) for Category III codes. Most non-Medicare carriers consider these emerging technology codes to be "investigational," and often deny payment.

The descriptor for 66761 *Iridoto-my/iridectomy by laser surgery (eg, for glaucoma) (per session)* now

specifies "per session" rather than "one or more sessions." In response, the MPFS reduces the global period for this code from 90 days to 10 days.

#### Codes Eliminated in Retina

Category III codes are reviewed every five years and are eliminated if there is insufficient support for their retention. CPT® 2011 eliminates Category III codes 0016T Destruction of localized lesion of choroid (e.g., choroidal neovascularization), transpupillary thermotherapy and 0017T Destruction of macular drusen, photocoagulation. CPT® now instructs you to use 67299 Unlisted procedure, posterior segment to report these procedures.

#### **Changes in Testing Services**

CPT° 2011 eliminates Category III code 0187T and replaces it with 92132 Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging, anterior segment, with interpretation and report, unilateral or bilateral. CPT° also deletes 92135 and replaces it with two new codes:

- 92133 Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging, posterior segment, with interpretation and report, unilateral or bilateral; optic nerve
- 92134 Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging, posterior segment, with interpretation and report, unilateral or bilateral; retina

(Per CPT° instructions, do not report 92133 and 92134 at the same patient encounter.)

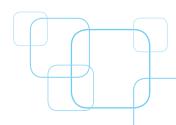
What prompted these changes in scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging (SCODI) coding? The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is charged by law to identify codes with the highest rate of growth and to review these codes to determine if they have been valued properly. The dramatic increase in the number of SCODI procedures being billed each year put 92135 in the crosshairs of CMS. The division into an optic nerve code and a retina code was prompted by the distinctly different uses for the service, and will aid clinicians in reporting different services.

Codes 92312-92134 are bilateral for 2011, and will be reimbursed per test, not per eye (the unilateral designation was discontinued because claims data suggested these procedures were performed bilaterally in the majority of cases). Practices should submit these testing services as a single line item, with no modifiers appended to the service.

#### **New Codes in Telemedicine**

Finally, CPT® 2011 adds two new codes to meet the needs of diabetic retinopathy screening programs that provide remote imaging and data submission to a centralized reading center:

• 92227 Remote imaging for detection of retinal disease (e.g., retinopathy in a patient with diabetes) with analysis and report under physician supervision, unilateral or bilateral



# Fee Schedule Shake-up Is a Wash for Ophthalmology

For 2011, the Physician Fee Schedule conversion factor is 33.9764. This is lower than the 2010 rate, but ophthalmology was granted an increase in practice expense and malpractice values that offset the reduction. Overall, ophthalmology payments should be stable in 2011. Ophthalmology can expect to gain an additional 4 percent by 2013, when improved practice expense values for ophthalmology are fully implemented in the fee schedule.

• 92228 Remote imaging for monitoring and management of active retinal disease (e.g., diabetic retinopathy) with physician review, interpretation and report, unilateral or bilateral

Per CPT<sup>®</sup> instructions, these codes should not be submitted with each other, nor should they be submitted with codes 92002-92014, 92133, 92134, 92250, or with evaluation and management (E/M) of a single organ system—i.e., the eye (99201-99350).

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a leading cause of blindness. Early detection makes the condition correctable 95 percent of the time. Imaging retina center technicians easily can look at a photo and read it. The ophthalmologist then can determine if the patient has DR and if so, the stage of DR and the proper course of treatment.

Equate the term "detection" (new diabetic retinopathy imaging code 92227) with "screening" for diabetic retinopathy. In other words, use 92227 when a diagnosis of DR is not certain and the physician is attempting to confirm the diagnosis. When the patient has active DR that is being managed, use 92228 for the imaging.



Kim M. Ross, OCS, CPC, is the American Academy of Ophthalmology's coding specialist, and the contributing author of the Ophthalmic Coding Coach and the Ophthalmic Coding Module Series. Kim's 35-year ophthalmic background includes all aspects of clinical and surgical assistance, ophthalmic photography, practice management, coding, reimbursement, and compliance

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#### **Apprentices**

Melissa Murray CPC-A APO AE Melissa Padlan CPC-A APO AE Karen Garner CPC-A Calera AL Georgia Leigh Moore CPC-A Calera AL Sonya Edgeworth CPC-A Clanton AL Kristie Leigh Guiditta CPC-A Daphne AL Meredith Crane CPC-A Deatsville AL Dorothy M Ballaro CPC-A Dothan AL Mallory Ann Brown CPC-A Dothan Al Crystal Y Gibson CPC-A Dothan AL Tammy M Smith CPC-A Dothan AL Susan Snead CPC-A Folev AL Susie Barber CPC-A Geneva AL Samantha F Warr CPC-A Highland Home AL Julie Thompson CPC-H-A Huntsville AL Demie Weatherly CPC-A Jasper AL Emmaline Cheryl Burch CPC-A Montevallo AL Jamese Young Simmons CPC-A Montgomery AL Hope Stoudemire CPC-A Opp AL Diane Barrow CPC-H-A Pinson AL Lauren Marie Hall CPC-A Slocomb AL Jena Nicole Murchison CPC-A Titus Al Arny Michelle Peacy CPC-A Fayetteville AR Brian Dobyns CPC-A Chandler AZ Mariah Sherrod CPC-A Chandler AZ Kimberly Johnson CPC-A Chino Valley AZ Christina Coronado CPC-A El Mirage AZ Andrea John CPC-A Ft Defiance AZ Rachel Ferrero CPC-A Gilbert AZ Samantha Webster CPC-A Gilbert AZ Jean Brown CPC-A Glendale AZ Connie L Knight CPC-A Glendale AZ Kelsey Williams CPC-A Glendale AZ Karol Lena Davis CPC-A Marana AZ Carollyn Renae Huegel CPC-A Marana AZ Dawn Fletcher CPC-A Mesa AZ Stacey Nordlin CPC-A Mesa AZ Robin Raso CPC-A Mesa AZ Laurie Reinig CPC-A Mesa AZ Rachel Rodriguez CPC-A Mesa AZ

Rick Cimaglia CPC-A Prescott Valley AZ Laura J Bradley CPC-A Sahuarita AZ Maria Del Rosario Avila CPC-A San Luis AZ Kira Morris CPC-A Scottsdale AZ Theresa Gonzales CPC-A Tempe AZ Jill Peters Johnson CPC-A Tempe AZ Nancy Spraggins CPC-A Tempe AZ Christina Carol Bingaman CPC-A Tucson AZ Odyssey Clark CPC-A Tucson AZ Lara Moreno CPC-A Tucson AZ Lorie Snedden CPC-A Tucson AZ Kathy White CPC-A Tucson A7 Carolyn Pollard CPC-A Altadena CA Lisa Lea CPC-A Antelope CA Lisa Freitas CPC-A Antioch CA Julie Harris CPC-A Antioch CA Debra Martin CPC-A Antioch CA Jamie Reyes CPC-A Antioch CA Sofia Reves-Shaffer CPC-A Antioch CA Pauline I Briggs CPC-A Apple Valley CA Tamara Rae Humphreys CPC-A Apple Valley CA Patricia M Snowberger CPC-A Apple Valley CA Kathryn Marie Staley CPC-A Apple Valley CA Rebecca Virginia Varley CPC-A Apple Valley CA Gloria Duncan CPC-A Arcata CA Terry Rae Ann Raley CPC-A Arcata CA Sharon Hooper CPC-A Bay Point CA Nancy Kerman CPC-A Bay Point CA Pamela Worley CPC-A Bay Point CA Flores Janette CPC-A Bell Gardens CA Pouneh Noroozian CPC-A, CPC-H-A Beverly Hills CA Esther Torres CPC-A Brea CA Juanita Sto Domingo CPC-A Brentwood CA Carla Christine Cancilla CPC-A Cameron Park CA Fleanor Boutte' CPC-A Canyon Country CA Rommel Manarang Yabut CPC-A Canyon Country CA Sandra Cofield CPC-A Carson CA Michael Morallo CPC-A Carson CA Bounyot Ping Estrada CPC-A Ceres CA Parwaiz Akhtar CPC-A Cerritos CA Yasuko Takeuchi CPC-A Cerritos CA Jeff Topacio CPC-A Cerritos CA Yuka Kanaya CPC-A Chula Vista CA Yenling Yang CPC-A City of Industry CA Shana Parker CPC-A Clearlake CA Jesusa Dobbs CPC-A Concord CA Karen R Hodges CPC-A Cool CA Edwin Alvarado CPC-A Covina CA Cesar Villanueva CPC-A Covina CA Karie Rego CPC-A Davis CA Tiffanie Hartley CPC-A Downey CA Alicia Seeton CPC-A Downey CA Kelley Keating CPC-A Elk Grove CA Alexus Lan Ngo-Agard CPC-A Elk Grove CA Victor Imperial CPC-A Encino CA Nhan Allen CPC-A Fontana CA Tanya Dolores Garcia CPC-A Fontana CA Wendy Najera CPC-A Fontana CA Isabella Castellanos CPC-A Fresno CA Paul Tahmizian CPC-A Fresno CA Chandra Lopez CPC-A Fullerton CA Crystal Renee Carter CPC-A Galt CA Laurie Holden CPC-A Garden Grove CA Cherrmaine Tablang CPC-A Garden Grove CA Loretta B Donner CPC-A Gardena CA Florence Almeda CPC-A Glendale CA Choughik Bilemjian CPC-A Granada Hills CA Catherine Flores CPC-A Granada Hills CA Terri Ann Reynolds CPC-A Granite Bay CA LeDonna Lee Bedsaul CPC-A Hermet CA Evelia Anaya CPC-A Hesperia CA Beronica Ramirez CPC-A Hesperia CA Meladie Brookins CPC-A Huntington Beach CA Sandra Elizabeth Alvarez-Frayre CPC-A Inglewood CA Suad A Latif CPC-A Inglewood CA Theresa Storts CPC-A Keyes CA Kelvin Decondo Little CPC-A La Harbra CA Vincent Kelly CPC-A La Mirada CA Maria E Carmona CPC-A La Puente CA Lisa Gaeta CPC-A La Verne CA Thomas Keamey CPC-A Lakeside CA Carol Nichols CPC-A Lakewood CA Arlene Lorena Gonzalez CPC-A Lawndale CA Theresa Beam CPC-A, CPC-H-A Lincoln CA

Stephanie Rosenberg CPC-A Mesa AZ

Ron Johnson CPC-A, CPC-H-A Peoria AZ Ron Johnson CPC-A, CPC-H-A Peoria AZ

Selena Salazar CPC-A Oracle AZ

Deborah Dresen CPC-A Phoenix AZ

Jeanine Heckart CPC-A Phoenix AZ

Lee Holm CPC-A Phoenix A7

Davina Marie Baroni CPC-A Lodi CA Stephanie Mulvany Martinez CPC-A Lodi CA Teresa Marie Thomas CPC-A Lodi CA Niranian Bhuta CPC-A Long Beach CA Merri Pendleton CPC-A Long Beach CA Sohee Hwang CPC-A Los Angeles CA Sylvia Lane CPC-A Los Angeles CA Ernest D Morris CPC-A Los Angeles CA Devonne L Owens CPC-A Los Angeles CA Karen Patricio CPC-A Los Angeles CA Tiffani Dionne Smith-Warrior CPC-A Los Angeles CA Edel Y Sotelo CPC-A Los Angeles CA Babita Thundathil CPC-A Los Angeles CA Maria Uveke CPC-A Los Angeles CA Briana Marie Hardesty CPC-A Manteca CA Jennifer Marie Harp CPC-A Manteca CA Tarra Kav McCready CPC-A Manteca CA Kristine Deaton CPC-A Marina CA Katie Lamb CPC-A Mission Viejo CA Angela Gandarilla CPC-A Modesto CA Luis A Pineda CPC-A Moreno Valley CA Michelle Therese Jones CPC-A Murrieta CA Grethel Abellera Tango CPC-A North Hills CA Adrine Astvatsatryan CPC-A North Hollywood CA Anna Annie Koshkarian CPC-A North Hollywood CA Krystal M Mays CPC-A North Hollywood CA Luwam Ghermay CPC-A Oakland CA Khrishna Jude Moore CPC-A Oakland CA Teresa Babilot CPC-A Oceanside CA Marieanne Paulson CPC-A Oceanside CA Kristine Christman CPC-A Oroville CA Lisa M Reaume CPC-A Oxnard CA Kathleen Hibbs CPC-A Pacheco CA Heather Sharpsteen CPC-A Palmdale CA Ma Czarina Refuerzo CPC-A Panorama City CA Gregory Dean Gabel CPC-A Pinole CA Vanessa Fuentes CPC-A Pittsburg CA Angelica Gonzalez CPC-A Pittsburg CA Brenda Sinjem CPC-A, CPC-H-A Placentia CA John M Fahy CPC-A Placerville CA Katie Ishmael CPC-H-A Placerville CA Gregory Rosco Williams CPC-A Porterville CA Chrystal M Harris CPC-A Rancho Cordova CA Ramon Lee CPC-A Rancho Cordova CA Beth Jablonski CPC-A Rancho Cucamonga CA Irene Rodriguez CPC-A Rancho Cucamonga CA Jennifer Slaughter CPC-A Redlands CA Sarah Kathryn Nichole Flink CPC-A Ripon CA Barbara Gail Goodner CPC-A Riverbank CA Carla A Chavez CPC-A Rosemead CA Camille Delores Hull CPC-A Rowland Heights CA Tiffany Dawn Bigornia CPC-A Sacramento CA Elisa W Ricci CPC-A Sacramento CA Farm Saechao CPC-A Sacramento CA Angela Sauls CPC-A Sacramento CA Kathy Vue CPC-A Sacramento CA Tou Kao Vue CPC-A Sacramento CA Adrienne D Woodfork-Carrasco CPC-A Sacramento CA Mai Bao Yang CPC-A Sacramento CA Marie Bakhtiari CPC-A San Clemente CA Karen Powell CPC-A San Clemente CA Chelsea K Auld-Duong CPC-A San Diego CA Claudia Marcela Camacho CPC-A San Diego CA Rose Ciraco CPC-A San Diego CA Lee Duncan CPC-A San Diego CA Stephanie Martin CPC-A San Diego CA Alena Mercado CPC-A San Diego CA Elizabeth Torres CPC-A San Diego CA Paige Anne Vaught CPC-A San Diego CA Rhosellie Renolo CPC-A San, Jose CA Carla Lou CPC-A San Lorenzo CA Ellen Szanto CPC-A San Mateo CA Mary Lou Lopez CPC-A Sanger CA Miroslava Aviles CPC-A Santa Ana CA Joel Emocling CPC-A Santa Clarita CA Strawberry Haselwood CPC-A Santa Clarita CA Kathy Fitznatrick CPC-A Santa Rosa CA Brook Thomason CPC-A Signal Hill CA Rebecca Boxberger CPC-A Soda Springs CA Anita Marie Britton CPC-A Stockton CA Erica Michelle Hannon CPC-A Stockton CA Rhonda L Johnson CPC-A Stockton CA Wesley W Patton CPC-A Stockton CA Isaac Rojas CPC-A Stockton CA Sandra Weeks CPC-A Stockton CA Shirley Mirch CPC-A Sun City CA Sally Balonick CPC-A Sunland CA Maria Georgina Monarrez CPC-A Sylmar CA Luanne Garcia-Grisham CPC-A Tarzana CA Christi-Ann Creek CPC-A Torrance CA Anthony Duclayan CPC-A Torrance CA

Katie Reasor CPC-A Torrance CA Wendy Minet CPC-A Upland CA Brandi Bell CPC-A Vallejo CA Maria Romingquet Ly CPC-A Vallejo CA Terri Brown CPC-A Van Nuys CA Maria Clara Pacheco Cunanan CPC-A Victorville CA Monique Perez CPC-A Victorville CA Patricia Garcia Puckett CPC-A Victorville CA Angela Annette Vasquez CPC-A Victorville CA Teri Wilson CPC-A Victorville CA Cathleen Cooper CPC-A Westchester CA Yvonne Nguyen CPC-A Westminster CA Kristy Rice-Merel CPC-A, CPC-H-A Westminster CA Mary Wilcox CPC-A Westminster CA Ivan Rodriguez CPC-A Wilmington CA James Nelson Jones CPC-A Woodbridge CA Fariba Satev-Tahoor CPC-A Woodland Hills CA Jennifer Appelhans CPC-A Arvada CO Barbara Lafleur CPC-A Aurora CO Zenea Hunt CPC-A Aurora CO Cawandra Micole Jallow CPC-A Aurora CO Sumitha Pasupuleti CPC-A Aurora CO Cassandra A Micklich CPC-A Brighton CO Amanda D Maris Mueller CPC-A Castle Rock CO Erica N Ewton CPC-A Colorado Springs CO Valerie Miller CPC-A Colorado Springs CO Natalie Jean Warr CPC-A Colorado Springs CO Shara Hansen CPC-A Conifer CO Kelly Fischer CPC-A Denver CO Joann Tarantino CPC-A Englewood CO Deanna Ranee Wardrip CPC-A Greeley CO Mary K Bender CPC-A Lakewood CO Irmalinda Gomez CPC-A Lakewood CO Sheri Aspinall CPC-A Littleton CO Bruce Donnelly CPC-A Longmont CO Cindy Schreiner CPC-A Loveland CO Barbara Marie Tessely CPC-A Loveland CO Scott Kelly Razak CPC-A Parker CO Jan Marie Warner CPC-A Pueblo CO Jaye Leon CPC-A Thornton CO Tracey Humphreys CPC-A Windsor CO Elizabeth Anne Blackmore CPC-A Amston CT Stanley Fisher CPC-A Ansonia CT Keisha G Russell CPC-A Balitc CT Elzbieta Chorzepa CPC-A Berlin CT Marlies Kamin CPC-A Branford CT Sally V Peterman CPC-A Branford CT Diane M Romano CPC-A Branford CT Susan Gravelle CPC-A Bristol CT Melissa Swain CPC-A Bristol CT Danielle Ruff CPC-A Colchester CT Chantale Lisa Krzanowski CPC-A Collinsville CT Lisa M Bennett CPC-A Coventry CT Donna Mook CPC-A Deep River C7 Pamela Lee Kirsch CPC-A Durham CT John Charles Day CPC-A East Hartford CT E Michelle Maitland CPC-A East Hartford CT Terrence Starks CPC-A East Hartford CT Brandy Tarleton CPC-A East Hartford CT Patricia Trumpet CPC-A East Hartford CT Corrine Eve Doyle CPC-A East Haven CT Bari L Burke CPC-A Enfield CT Ellen Allen CPC-A Gilman CT Mansoora Waqar CPC-A Glastonbury CT Heather Tyler CPC-A Guilford CT Brenda Annette Chin CPC-A Hartford CT Rachel Williams CPC-A Ledyard CT Cathleen M Corriveau CPC-A Meriden CT Judith Masse CPC-A Meriden CT Madeline I Morales CPC-A Meriden CT Evelyn M Cajigas CPC-A Milfort CT Kathy Mangieri CPC-A Monroe CT Sheree McSally CPC-A Monroe CT Judith Dimmock CPC-A Mystic CT Victoria Lynn Borges CPC-A Naugatuck CT Janet Cooper CPC-A Naugatuck CT Elaine Yurko CPC-A New Britain CT Assunta DeFalco CPC-A New Haven CT William Goldberg CPC-A New Haven CT Carrie Haddon CPC-A New Haven CT Amber Mott CPC-A New Haven CT Jane M Ellis CPC-A Newington CT Denise Simonsen CPC-A North Branford CT Yvonne Marie Kasprzycki CPC-A North Haven CT Laurie Funke CPC-A Old Lyme CT Marci Germinaro CPC-A Oxford CT Beatriz Chacon CPC-A Plainville CT Barbara Clapp CPC-A Plantsville CT April D Markham CPC-A Portland CT Andrea Ballaro CPC-A Shelton C7 Jamie Toppin CPC-A Shelton CT

Jessica Gorrie CPC-A Somer CT Beth Craig CPC-A Somers CT Komal Deepak Govani CPC-A South Windsor CT Sofia Egan CPC-A Southington CT Dametra Michelle Arrington CPC-A Stratford CT Allison Lillian Nazzaro CPC-A Stratford CT Jennifer Slavin CPC-A Stratford CT Kathleen Lopes CPC-A Tolland CT Georgene L Sault CPC-A Tolland CT Kimberly J Snyder CPC-A Tolland CT Wendy Drew CPC-A Torrington CT Judy L Donovan CPC-A West Haven CT Philip Kneese CPC-A Windsor CT Deborah J. Smith CPC-A Wolcott CT Demetria Proctor CPC-A Washington DC Chervl R McCann CPC-A Bear DE Danilo San Diego CPC-A Magnolia DE Judy Kaiser CPC-A Middletown DE Madalyn Potter CPC-A Newark DE Corinne Long CPC-A Smyrna DE Brenda Diane Stephens CPC-A Wilmington DE Jenna A Wilson CPC-A Wilmington DE Katharine DiLella CPC-A Altamonte Springs FL Sheila Montroy CPC-A Apollo Beach FL Kathleen Hurley CPC-A Belleair FL Alton Clayton CPC-A Boca Raton FL Marie Leonce CPC-A Boca Raton FL Kara Johnson CPC-A Brandon FL Diana Turner CPC-A Brandon FL Jerry Woods CPC-A Brandon FL Deborah Ann Eckert CPC-A Cantonment FL Cheryle Affronti CPC-A Cane Coral FL Helen Barker CPC-A Cape Coral FL Shanda Ellis-Caprenter CPC-A Cape Coral FL Barbara Garza CPC-A Cape Coral FL Lia Kerfoot CPC-A Cape Coral FL Robert V Lawrence CPC-A Cape Coral FL Robin Ruse CPC-A Cape Coral FL Susan A Svidron CPC-A Cape Coral FL Joanna Waitekus CPC-A Cape Coral FL Anastasia Corina Yarmy CPC-A Cape Coral FL Deshaunna Anderson CPC-A Clearwater FL Jeremy Cummings CPC-A Clearwater FL Lori Staley CPC-A Clearwater FL Kristan Holt CPC-H-A Cutler Bay FL Marissa M Gepilano CPC-A Debary FL Jimmie Brazer CPC-A Dover FL Teresa Carman CPC-A Dunedin FL Christine Evans CPC-A Dunedin FL Maria Coffey CPC-A Englewood FL Elizabeth Murray CPC-A Frostproof FL Nicole L Busbee CPC-A Ft Myers FL Regina Marie Sorenson CPC-A Ft Myers FL Margaret Wiggins CPC-A Ft Myers FL Jayden Lyons CPC-A Gainesville FL Philisher Myers CPC-A Gainesville FL Jasmine Diaz CPC-A Gibsonton FL Georgia Nelson CPC-A Grant FL Dayne Clarke CPC-A Holiday FL Heidi Dean CPC-A Holiday FL Danielle Reis CPC-A Holiday FL Kimberly Shepherd CPC-A Hollywood FL Geetha Gangidi CPC-A Jacksonville FL Narong Khan CPC-A Jacksonville FL Renea Lloyd CPC-A Jacksonville FL Kim Longo CPC-A Jacksonville FL Kim Norris CPC-A Jacksonville FL Rhonda Rochay CPC-A Jacksonville FL Kristina Ryan CPC-A Jacksonville FL Carla Serrano CPC-A Jacksonville FL Krista Marie Cline CPC-A, CIRCC Jacksonville Beach FL Flizabeth Newton CPC-A Juniter FL Guytrie Bahadur CPC-A Kissimmee FL Luisa Garcia CPC-A Kissimmee FL Sandy Gimenez CPC-A Kissimmee FL Evelyn Marcano CPC-A Kissimmee FL Melanie Vega CPC-A Kissimmee FL Latonia Latimer CPC-A Lady Lake FL Mary Brallier CPC-A Lake City FL Julie St-Jean CPC-A Lake Park FL Kristi Cicolello CPC-A Land O Lakes FL Rosemary Hannigan CPC-A Land O Lakes FL Loretta Risley CPC-A, CPC-H-A Land O Lakes FL Loretta Risley CPC-A, CPC-H-A Land O Lakes FL Jessica Belliveau CPC-A Largo FL Melissa Pfeiffer CPC-A Largo FL Yoanka Rodriguez CPC-A Lehigh Acres FL Rachel Reynolds CPC-A Lithia FL Greg Walker CPC-A Madeira Beach FL Yvrose Jean CPC-A Miami FL

Patricia Pourxet CPC-A Miami FL Linda Sandberg CPC-A Miami FL Aleiandro Serralvo CPC-A Miami FL Trina Smith CPC-A Micco FL Roberta Kay Clark CPC-A Middleburg FL Theresa Mccorkell CPC-A Miramar FL Donna D Lowery CPC-A Molino FL Karen Parry CPC-A Naples FL Noreen Price CPC-A, CPC-H-A Naples FL Dale Waller CPC-A Naples FL Harold G Padgett CPC-A Neptune Beach FL Trisha Harriman CPC-A New Port Richey FL Deborah Paulino CPC-A New Port Richey FL Kerrie Rogers CPC-A Niceville FL Wildine M Dumond CPC-A North Lauderdale FL Mary Hart CPC-A North Port FL Tami Kae Amick CPC-A Ocala FL Annette Cabello-Rosario CPC-A Ocala FL Danay Crespo CPC-A Ocala FL Keri Ann Fraley CPC-A Ocala FL Wanda Nabbefeld CPC-A Ocala FL Sheilla Rodriguez CPC-A Ocala FL Suzy Bratcher CPC-A Orange City FL Lori Burnham CPC-A Orange Park FL Stephanie M Brown CPC-A Orlando FL Evelyn Diaz CPC-A Orlando FL Eva A Ehmke CPC-A Orlando FL Karin D Gill-Brummitt CPC-A Orlando FL Lorimar Kenia Henriquez CPC-A Orlando FL Kassie Hojnacki CPC-A Orlando FL Enis Elaine Irving-Maxwell CPC-A Orlando FL Auilda Maria Rodriguez CPC-A Orlando FL Laura Schafer CPC-A Orlando FL Clayton Duhl CPC-A Ormond Beach FL Nancy Jones CPC-A Palm Harbor FI Renata Kaminski CPC-A Palm Springs FL Reta L Drabandt CPC-A Palmetto F Tanya J Alexander CPC-A Pensacola FI Jeri Annette Goolsby CPC-A Pensacola FL Candy Watson CPC-A Plant City FL Lorilee Fontana CPC-A Port St Lucie FL Robert Heriveaux CPC-A Port St Lucie FL Sarah J Hamilton CPC-A Punta Gorda FL Candace A Holliday CPC-A Riverview FL Melanie Lawhome CPC-A Riverview FL Brenda Elizabeth Paquette-Rivera CPC-A Rockledge FL Christy Lane Wade CPC-A Ruskin FL Patricia Hursh CPC-A Sanford FL Jennifer Pickett CPC-A Sanford FL Patricia Blair CPC-A Sarasota FL Kelly Marie Huber CPC-A Sebastian FL Kyle Goulet CPC-A Seffner FL Brandi Linscott CPC-A Seffner FL Aaron Weeks CPC-A Sefner FL Lorrie Ann Weaver CPC-A Silver Springs FL Lynn Fanning CPC-A St James City FL Paul Brown CPC-A St Petersburg FL Jackie Fender CPC-A St Petersburg FL Kvla Johnson CPC-A St Petersburg FL Kiara Kitchen CPC-A St Petersburg FL Meredith Krauss CPC-A St Petersburg FL Melinda Ann Nikolas CPC-A St Petersburg FL Karilina Benavides CPC-A Sunrise FL Anadanay Betancourt CPC-A Tampa FL Angelica Blanco CPC-A Tampa FL Bernadette Dahill CPC-H-A Tampa FL Faith Hope Dalton CPC-A Tampa FL Neva Farrell CPC-A Tampa FL Christine Jackson CPC-A Tampa FL Alicia MacDowell CPC-A Tampa FL Edalydia Maldonado CPC-A Tampa FL Evla Martinez CPC-A Tampa EL Denis Morecraft CPC-A Tampa Fl Elizabeth Ortega CPC-A Tampa FL Anabel Perez CPC-A Tampa FI Barbara J Pla CPC-A Tampa FL Maria Rivera CPC-A Tampa FL Marta Rodriguez CPC-A Tampa FL Debora Simpson CPC-A Tampa FL Patricia Sosa CPC-A Tampa FL Ma. Aurora Sta. Ana CPC-A Tampa FL Kathy Sutton CPC-A Tampa FL Vielka Thome-Thomas CPC-A Tampa FL Sheryl Turpen CPC-A Tampa FL Kristen Ware CPC-A Tampa FL Gabrielle Smith CPC-A Valrico FL Ronald Hicks CPC-A Venice FL Melissa Steams CPC-A Venice FL John Barry Morgan CPC-A Vero Beach FL

Cheri Doherty-Ayers CPC-A Viera FL

Denise A Kalvan CPC-A W Melbourne FL Scott Jordan CPC-A Wellington FL Carla Butler CPC-A Wesley Chapel FL File Heirholzer CPC-A Wesley Chanel FI Tina Owens CPC-A Wesley Chapel FL Satrina Palmore CPC-A Wesley Chapel FL Sandra St Cyr CPC-A Windermere FL Ange Washington CPC-A Winter Park FL Hema Patel CPC-A Adairsville GA Pamela Spencer CPC-A Albany GA Magda Axt CPC-A, CPC-H-A Alpharetta GA Daphne Lawanda Houston CPC-A Atlanta GA Melinda (Mel) Martin CPC-A Atlanta GA Gwendolyn Owens CPC-H-A Atlanta GA Angelica Taylor CPC-A Auburn GA Sheena Hall CPC-A Augusta GA Jennifer L Kuethe CPC-A Augusta GA Becky Wiggins CPC-A Augusta GA Livia Chemise Merritt CPC-A Austell GA Rhonda Smart CPC-A Austell GA Deena Marie Norton CPC-A Blue Ridge GA Katina Maria Clark CPC-A Bowersville Julie Johnson CPC-A Brunswick GA Robyn D May CPC-A Carrollton GA Donna Hawkins CPC-A Cohutta GA Monica Cea Plaza CPC-A Convers GA Xavier Jamal Morgan CPC-A Conyers GA Annette Baker CPC-A Cumming GA Vicky D Sparks CPC-A Dacula GA Britney Smith CPC-A Dalton GA Veronica Duhaney CPC-H-A Decatur GA Kemvatta Lvons CPC-A Decatur GA Toni Denise Nelson CPC-A Decatur GA Elvira Miller CPC-A Douglasville GA Maria Wallace CPC-A Douglasville GA Savanna Marie Booker CPC-A Duford GA Candy Adair CPC-A Gainesville GA Carolyn Moore CPC-A Lithonia GA Lisa Annette Rudolph CPC-A Lithonia GA Howard Cramer CPC-A Locust Grove GA Rika Holland CPC-A Mableton GA Adriene Murphy CPC-A Mableton GA Shirley Gordon CPC-A Marietta GA Lorena Powers CPC-A Marietta GA Lakeisha Evette Grant CPC-A McDonough GA Traci Bowser CPC-A Norcross GA Desiree Jeanette Miree CPC-A Norcross GA Annette Durr CPC-A Peachtree City GA Nancy Tabor CPC-A Pendergrass GA Renee OLeary CPC-A Powder Springs GA Yvonne Lawrence CPC-A Riverdale GA Charisse Smitherman CPC-H-A Roswell GA MaryJo Blount CPC-H-A Stockbridge GA Ayana Jackson CPC-A Stockbridge GA Linda Serra CPC-A Waleska GA Jessica Coleman CPC-A Winder GA Valerie Ann McCurley CPC-A Woodstock GA Maulik Bakshi CPC-A, CPC-H-A Ahmedabad GJ Mary Claire Paras CPC-A Aiea HI Diana Rose Tungpalan Spells CPC-A Aiea HI Sharon Thomas CPC-A Ewa Beach HI Marie Matsue Campbell-Barker CPC-A Hilo HI Joann Marie Mundo CPC-A Hilo HI Janine Camacho CPC-A Honolulu HI Rick D Dunn CPC-A Honolulu HI Camille Evans CPC-A Honolulu HI Carmen Jefferson CPC-A Honolulu HI Melissa Len CPC-A Honolulu HI Dwight Haruo Matsuwaki CPC-A Honolulu HI Debra Teresa Ozawa CPC-A Honolulu HI Maria Soledad Valero CPC-A Honolulu HI Yu Jin Yoon CPC-A Honolulu HI Brigida Cariaga CPC-A Kapolei HI Ericka S S L Matamua CPC-A Kapolei HI Linda Hewitt CPC-A Mililani HI Gloribell Melendez CPC-A Mililani HI Jennifer Romena Simcock CPC-A Mililani HI Amy Tajiri CPC-A Mililani HI Rickie Ota CPC-A Pearl City HI Monika Pang CPC-A Pearl City HI Tanya Roberts CPC-A Belmond IA Susan T Forry CPC-A Bettendorf IA Adrianna Janet Franklin CPC-A Central City IA Joplin C Pruitt CPC-A Council Bluffs IA Danielle Elizabeth Spengler CPC-A Davenport IA Lea-Ann White CPC-A Davenport IA Ana Elia Garcia CPC-A Denison IA Jennifer Schultz CPC-A Dubuque IA Kelly Heitmeier CPC-A Hillsboto IA Ann Zehr CPC-A Manson IA

Jessica Sue Pickett CPC-A Preston IA

Debra Copeland CPC-A Ricketts IA Lily Devadoss CPC-A West Des Moines IA Deborah Ann Blockhus CPC-A West Union IA Glenda Sue Bean CPC-A Boise ID Glenda Brooking CPC-A Boise ID Barbara Hopkins CPC-A Boise ID Remzo Keranovic CPC-A Boise ID Melissa Scrivner CPC-A Boise ID Natalie Sellen CPC-A Boise ID Ann Torfin CPC-A Eagle ID Cindy Nuxoll CPC-A Lewiston ID Marian Grace Dyer CPC-A Meridian ID Melissa Hall CPC-A Meridian ID Trisha Nauman CPC-A Meridian ID Sande Lawrence-Arellano CPC-A Nampa ID Tamara McGee CPC-A Nampa ID Rhonda Nelson CPC-A Nampa ID Jessica Jones CPC-A Rexburg ID Madeline Schutten CPC-A Algonquin IL Java Lakshmi Kosuri CPC-A Aurora IL Ivy Marie Roxas CPC-A Barrington IL Nicole Fanshier CPC-A Beardstown IL Carla Robben CPC-A Belleville IL Jessica Wheeler CPC-A Belleville IL Anthony D'Oronzo CPC-A Bloomingdale II Amanda Rae Fuller CPC-A Byron IL Stefanie Muntean CPC-A Carpentersville IL Victoria Schalz CPC-A Cary IL Lois Tweeten CPC-A Carv IL Christine Zaruba CPC-A Cary IL Lurdes Cerino-Maldonado CPC-A Chicago IL Erika Cervantes CPC-A Chicago IL Deepthi Chilakapati CPC-A Chicago IL rmella Johnson CPC-A Chicago IL Nataliya Kurchiy CPC-A Chicago IL Aneta Lukasiewicz CPC-A Chicago IL Rochelle Smith CPC-A Chicago IL Ketra D Hauk CPC-A Chillicothe IL Effie Rene Hoffman CPC-A Chillicothe IL Danielle Askew CPC-A Collinsville IL Sharon Bakula CPC-A Crystal Lake IL Nola M Ayers CPC-A Decatur IL Renee Diane Berg CPC-H-A Decatur IL Laura Ekiss CPC-A Decatur IL Jessica M. Jocis CPC-A Divernon II Mary E Ackerson CPC-A Dixon IL Carlene Augustine CPC-A Dixon IL Karen S Hill CPC-A Dixon IL Adriane Kirkwood CPC-A Downers Grove IL Jessie Renee Goben CPC-A East Peoria IL Elizabeth Michaels CPC-A Edwardsville IL LeighAnn Bonvillain CPC-A Elizabeth IL Debra Lynne Davis CPC-A Freeport IL Amanda Littlefeather Frances CPC-A Freeport IL Laketia Lashunda Higgins CPC-A Freeport IL Lori Jean King CPC-A Freeport IL Brianna Ruthanne Toepfer CPC-A Freeport IL Sarah Lyndsay Ashby CPC-A Girard IL TaDena Duncan CPC-A Godfrey IL Cathy J Johnson CPC-A Hartford IL Vivian Alice McDowell CPC-A Hillside IL Isabel Espinoza CPC-A Hodgkins IL Maria Gay Villacrusis CPC-A Homewood IL Kimberly Mccloud CPC-A Lansing IL Leslie A Bertram CPC-A Lena IL Danita K Emford CPC-A Lena IL Abbi Ann Switzer CPC-A Lena IL Colleen Kelly Rettig CPC-A Manomet IL Cassie Riley CPC-A Mattoon IL Sheila Nightingale CPC-A McHenry IL Jenna R Hook CPC-A Morrison IL Carmina Rose Baltierra CPC-A Mt Carroll IL Pamela S Gill CPC-A Nashville IL Cathy Marten CPC-A New Lenox IL Michelle Josie Andresen CPC-A North Aurora IL Sheryl Fondon CPC-A North Riverside IL Julene May Sandusky CPC-A Oregon IL Janet La Susa CPC-A Palatine II Karen Stearney CPC-A Palatine IL Margaret Leila - Marie Gentile CPC-A Palos Hills II Michael Perkins CPC-A Park Forest IL Angela Marie Griffin CPC-A Pawnee IL Tonya Lynn Carter CPC-A Peoria II Marilyn June Bachman CPC-A Polo IL Kathy Ann Fischer CPC-A Raymond IL Carol Ann Ripple CPC-A Richmond IL Takisha Booker CPC-A Richton Park IL Laura Lee Boland CPC-A Roanoke IL Carrianne Dahlkamp CPC-A Rochester IL Daniell Rose Nehring CPC-A Rock City IL

Heather Lynn Young CPC-A Rock Falls IL

Malinee Yindee CPC-A Rockford IL Odette Bahnmaier CPC-A Rolling Meadows IL Constantina Hassan CPC-A Round Lake Beach IL Merill Sideno CPC-A Schaumburg IL Natasha Anne Santacrose CPC-A Springfield IL Melissa L Walker CPC-A Springfield II Brian Yturralde CPC-A Streamwood IL Joan Bertsch CPC-A Woodstock IL Kim Renee Schwarz CPC-A Yorkville IL Tara L Arnett CPC-A Avilla IN Carla J Hodges CPC-A Borden IN Alyssa Liechty CPC-A Decatur IN Ashley Van Ness CPC-A Fairland IN Jodie Payne CPC-A Floyds Knobs IN Angela Long CPC-A Fortville IN Teresa Lee Jones CPC-A Ft Wayne IN Jennifer J Paredes CPC-A Hammond IN Mark W Smith CPC-A Hammond IN Robin R Hayes CPC-A Hudson IN Kim Fisher CPC-A Indianapolis IN Arlene Yarbrough CPC-A Indianapolis IN Mary J Lehman CPC-A Kendallville IN Jeri Thomas CPC-A Kendallville IN Lora Hullinger CPC-A Kokomo IN Eileen Ossenbeck CPC-A Lawrenceburg IN Janeen Twohey CPC-A Mishawaka IN Vivian L Haag CPC-A Mongo IN Connie Lee Burks CPC-A Murfreesboro IN Natalie Lackner CPC-A Noblesville IN Dawn Irene Beer CPC-A Pleasant Lake IN Beth A Creigh CPC-A Rome City IN BethAnn M McGurn CPC-A Warsaw IN Doris J Palmer CPC-A Wolcottville IN Dinah Lynn Davis CPC-A Coffeyville KS Rachel Danielle Tatman CPC-A Emporia KS Lesli L Shinkle CPC-A Haysville KS Alenda Jacobson CPC-A Leawood KS Richard J Weisner CPC-A Leawood KS Martha Willis CPC-A Ottawa KS Christina Calvert CPC-A Overland Park KS Jennifer Piatt CPC-A Overland Park KS Julie Claar CPC-A Paola KS Johna A O'Trimble CPC-A Perry KS Lori Hathaway CPC-A Tonganoxie KS Kimberly Ann Bahre CPC-A Topeka KS Kathleen M Bloomquist CPC-A Topeka KS Loni Dee Le'Page CPC-A Topeka KS Frank Steve Lowman CPC-A Topeka KS Chambrelle A Revely CPC-A Topeka KS Chris R Simmons CPC-A Topeka KS Randy Alvin Stringer CPC-A Topeka KS JaMeece Wilkins CPC-A Topeka KS Mark Allen Cessna CPC-A Wichita KS Judi Hurd CPC-A Wichita KS Bruce N Klaassen CPC-A Wichita KS Jeannie W Pechin CPC-A Wichita KS Jackie Lynn Crawford CPC-A Barbourville KY Lori Miller CPC-A Berea KY Lovie Leonard Clay CPC-A Bowling Green KY Svlvia Havslett CPC-A Burgin KY Marcella Copley CPC-A Cattlettsburg KY April Renee Gentry CPC-A Cave City KY Jaimy Zorotovic CPC-A Cold Spring KY Belinda M Thompson CPC-A Danville KY Wilma VanZant CPC-A Edmonton KY Dehorah Sue Soult CPC-A Erlanger KY Lucille Morrison CPC-A Florence KY Susan Nastasi CPC-A Florence KY Sharon B Higdon CPC-A Georgetown KY Adine Elizabeth Bouchard CPC-A Harrodsburg KY Michelle Hollon CPC-A Harrodsburg KY Jennifer Mayle CPC-A Hebron KY Stacey Smallwood CPC-A Hebron KY Sandra Boucherie CPC-A Henderson KY Karen Ranney CPC-A Independence KY Jenny L Day CPC-A Lancaster KY Angela Martin CPC-A Lawrenceburg KY Christina Bowman CPC-A Lexington KY Cynthia Cochran CPC-A Lexington KY Mary Elizabeth Cornett CPC-A Lexington KY Jennifer C Davis CPC-A Lexington KY Cheryl Eckman CPC-A Lexington KY Daniel C Fryman CPC-A Lexington KY Heather Harlin CPC-A Lexington KY Jacqueline I Koury CPC-A Lexington KY Mary Lyons CPC-A Lexington KY Melanie Preston CPC-A Lexington KY David M Ratliff CPC-A Lexington KY Deborah Reed CPC-A Lexington KY Cheryl Lynn Roberts CPC-A Lexington KY Jennifer Renee Tucker CPC-A Lexington KY

Georgetta Williams CPC-A Lexington KY Robert Adams CPC-A Louisville KY Curtis Lee Bass CPC-A Louisville KY Alma Begic CPC-A Louisville KY Valerie Benge CPC-A Louisville KY Allison Marie Britton CPC-A Louisville KY Rosie Chase CPC-A Louisville KY Alison C Chodyniecki CPC-A Louisville KY Brittiany J Coley CPC-A Louisville KY Janice Delores Ellis CPC-A, CPC-H-A Louisville KY Cynthia K Gimbel CPC-A Louisville KY Denean Grace CPC-A Louisville KY Nancy J Hall CPC-A Louisville KY Ruth J Hall CPC-A Louisville KY Sabrina Hamilton CPC-A Louisville KY Amy Hulker CPC-A Louisville KY
Dwayne Eddie Kinsey CPC-A Louisville KY
Jeanette Drexler Lavender CPC-A Louisville KY Jeanette A Maxey CPC-A Louisville KY James I. McDowell, III CPC-A Louisville KY Crystal J Palmer CPC-A, CPC-H-A Louisville KY Michele Marie Prestigiacomo CPC-A Louisville KY Sandra Lynn Qian CPC-A Louisville KY Heather Rapp CPC-A Louisville KY Taiwanda Renee' Rice CPC-A Louisville KY Sarah M Rieman CPC-A Louisville KY Kenya Riley CPC-A Louisville KY Dayana Samon Rodriguez CPC-A Louisville KY Jami Lynn Russell CPC-A Louisville KY Danyle L Washington CPC-A, CPC-H-A Louisville KY Julie Zimmer CPC-A Louisville KY Laura Veach CPC-A Maceo KY Mari Ward CPC-A Mayfield KY Jennifer Lamb CPC-A McKee KY Jessica Hare CPC-A Means KY Trese M Slusser CPC-A Mt Washington KY Phyllis Pasch CPC-A Nicholasville KY Sharon Gayle Tanner CPC-A Owensboro KY Gloria Vovles CPC-A Owensboro KY Jennifer Baker CPC-A Philpot KY Deborah Lorraine Pollard CPC-A Pleasureville KY Cindy Howard CPC-A Raceland KY Carey L Cole CPC-A Richmond KY Kimberley Jones CPC-A Richmond KY Jacqueline Walls CPC-A Richmond KY Kristy Lee McKenzie CPC-A, CPC-H-A Shelbyville KY Chasity Paul CPC-A Stanford KY Robyn Gayle Smith CPC-A Versailles KY Chantal Bennett CPC-A Waynesburg KY Tina Despointes CPC-A Abita Springs LA Trina M Henderson CPC-A Baton Rouge LA Leslie Bogran CPC-A Covington LA Jessica Hamilton CPC-A Covington LA Lisa I Mvers CPC-A Goldonna LA Carolyn Allen Crouch CPC-A Kenner I A Annette Dillon CPC-A Laplace LA Deborah Ann Cotton CPC-A Madisonville LA Michelle Bel CPC-A Mandeville I A Kristina Stout CPC-A Meraux LA Tammy Keppler CPC-A Metairie LA Nichole Thomas CPC-A New Orleans LA Jan Kennedy CPC-A Prairieville LA Johnathan James Banks CPC-A Shreveport LA Allison Luciana Brown CPC-A Shreveport LA Amanda Rachela Collins CPC-A Shreveport LA lope Sebti CPC-A Ashland MA Midge Marian Pixley CPC-A Belchertown MA Katherine Zalewski CPC-A Belmont MA Dola M Thelwell CPC-A Boston MA Patrice Wesner CPC-A Canton MA Kaitlyn Garrity CPC-A Chicopee MA Jessica Elaine Turcotte CPC-A Foxborough MA Danielle Marie Jusseaume CPC-A Framingham MA Kristal Rock CPC-A Hampden MA Kim Freamo CPC-A Haverhill MA Myra Dunne CPC-A Hingham MA Lori-ann Davis CPC-A Hyannis MA Carol Thomson CPC-A Mansfield MA Christine McCoy CPC-A Marlboro MA Robin Hope CPC-A Mashpee MA Diane M Ryberg CPC-A Maynard MA Lauren Anne Burdick CPC-A North Easton MA Luann Bechard CPC-A North Grafton MA Tzimari Kirkpatrick CPC-A Plymouth MA Susan Graham CPC-A Seekonk MA Tyler Brin CPC-A South Hadley MA Marita Brooks Cable-Camilleis CPC-A South Yarmouth MA Heather Christiana CPC-A Springfield MA Janice Ortiz CPC-A Springfield MA Garry Fenton CPC-A Stoughton MA

Lil Behrens CPC-A Sturbridge MA Jennifer Jane Sousa CPC-A Swansea MA Robb Metzger CPC-A Westborough MA Maureen West CPC-A Westborough MA Manuel Botelho, III CPC-A Westport MA Theresa Guinto CPC-A Winchendon MA Efigjeni Dukaj CPC-A Worcester MA Alisa Holliday CPC-A Wrentham MA Mona El Dabaghi CPC-A Annapolis MD Melanie Loughry CPC-A Annapolis MD Taneika S Holloway CPC-A Baltimore MD Jocelyn Jones CPC-A Baltimore MD Angela L Mathers CPC-A Baltimore MD Shakeya Morgan CPC-A Baltimore MD Cynthia Anne Muller CPC-A Baltimore MD Paula Polek CPC-A Baltimore MD Joseph Redd CPC-H-A Baltimore MD Faylie Schultz CPC-A Baltimore MD Abigail Stern CPC-A Baltimore MD Mariya Trojanovs CPC-A, CPC-H-A Baltimore MD Nicolene Polyak CPC-A Churchville MD Montressa Bishop CPC-A Columbia MD Gaynell Conley CPC-A Columbia MD Carol Kositz CPC-A Edgewater MD Kelly Nesslage CPC-A Elkridge MD leesha N Crowder CPC-A Essex MD Deborah Sue Martinek CPC-A Fallston MD Esther Anne Eger CPC-A Frederick MD Cynthia Grace Hering CPC-A Frederick MD Machele Grace CPC-A Glen Burnie MD Jemia Wright CPC-A Hyattsville MD Kristina Ebron CPC-A Laurel MD Camille Jones CPC-A Laurel MD Melynda A Clute CPC-A Middletown MD Katherine Graham Johnson CPC-A Mount Airy MD Linda Carethers CPC-A Odenton MD Chelsea Caspar CPC-A Owings MD Felicia Marie Chase CPC-A Parkville MD Alem Mengesha CPC-A Silver Spring MD Amanda Livingston CPC-A Sparks MD Tayibat Ibrahim-Shafi CPC-A Upper Marlboro MD Alyson White CPC-A Acton ME Dawn Lee Hamlin CPC-A Brownfield ME Janice Hofer CPC-A Camden ME Judy Linda Castonguay CPC-A Lewiston ME Laurier R Cloutier CPC-A Lewiston ME Jessica Landry CPC-A Milford ME Laura Ann Clifford CPC-A Sabattus ME Lynda Casey CPC-A Saco MF Jacqueline Sewall CPC-A South Berwick ME Debra Lynn Kantor CPC-A Westbrook ME Carla C Osborne CPC-A Berkley MI Judith Gawinek CPC-A Birmingham MI Alena Matulova CPC-A Birmingham MI Lori A Baldwin CPC-A Caledonia MI Monica Duda CPC-A Canton MI Tracey Hellner CPC-A Chesterfield Township MI Deborah Ann Giacalone CPC-A China MI Katie Diehl CPC-A Coleman MI Tomika Hannah-Willis CPC-A Detroit MI Kelly Adaway CPC-A Dorr MI Savannah Dottery CPC-A East Lansing MI J. Wakefield CPC-A Farmington Hills M Alison Montgomery CPC-A Grand Rapids MI Maria L Tuffelmire CPC-A Grant MI Lynn Bendzinski CPC-A Grosse Pointe Park MI Lilas McDonald CPC-A Harper Woods MI Janina Marie Page CPC-A Holland MI Brandy Pemberton CPC-A Holland MI Diane K Mills CPC-A Hudson MI Ashly Wilson CPC-A Jackson MI Joanne Crane CPC-A Kalamazoo MI Kathy Jagger CPC-A Kentwood MI Michelle Daniels CPC-H-A Macomb MI Christeson Jimenez CPC-A Macomb MI Kelley Craddock CPC-A Marshall MI Alicia Soto CPC-A Midland MI Dawn Olczak CPC-A Monroe MI Jessica Stubleski CPC-A Muskegon MI Kathleen Rainko CPC-A Novi MI Deborah Roman CPC-A Portage MI Jill Miller CPC-A Romulus MI Trista Nicole Brehm CPC-A Roseville MI Mary Hrisopoulos CPC-A Shelby Township MI Colleen Markiewicz CPC-A Shelby Township MI Pamela Meyer CPC-A Shelby Township MI Kristina Plociniak CPC-H-A Shelby Township MI Debra Schneider CPC-A Shelby Township MI Michael Ferrence CPC-A St Clair Shores MI Celia Likens CPC-A St Clair Shores MI

Cally Henry CPC-A St Louis MI

Barbara Watson CPC-A Sterling Heights MI Bonnie Labby CPC-A Warren MI George Maroulitsas CPC-A Warren MI Jaymi Pawlica CPC-A Westland MI Paula R Vining CPC-A White Cloud MI Sandra Kay Anderson CPC-A Breckenridge MN Kathleen Bowen CPC-A Eagan MN Emily Reisner CPC-A La Crescent MN Dawn Barber CPC-A Lafayette MN Dawn Marie Rupp CPC-A Minnetonka MN Amanda Ireland CPC-A Mound MN Becky Moran CPC-A Rushford MN Esther Fideldy CPC-A St Francis MN Claire Kronebusch CPC-A Winona MN Heather Therese Gibson CPC-A Arnold MO Amy Gillam CPC-A Ballwin MO Stephanie Marie Lee CPC-A Cape Girardeau MO Shirley Maurine Gallaher CPC-A Columbia MO Amy Watring CPC-A Columbia MO Donna L Fuchs CPC-A Hazelwood MO Susan Mary Swinea CPC-A Hazelwood MC M. Roselee Hogan CPC-A Holts Summit MO Patricia Lynn Teder CPC-A Jackson MO Jennifer Diane Alumbaugh CPC-A Jasper MO Esther Renee Frates CPC-A Jefferson City MO William Brent Holz CPC-A Joplin MO Brenda Christina CPC-A Kansas City MO Ardja Hicks CPC-A Kansas City MO Dawn Rene Fenimore CPC-A Lake St Louis MO Karen S Anderson CPC-A Lees Summit MO Laura Ann Dorsch CPC-A Lees Summit MO Rhonda Manuel CPC-A Moberly MO Caitlin Elizabeth Harris CPC-A Nelson MO Alicia Pollard CPC-A Oak Grove MO Melinda Gamer CPC-A Orrick MO Lisa Gaines CPC-A Poplar Bluff MO Tammy Jo Wyatt CPC-A Puxico MO Leah Nicole Renno CPC-A Russellville MO Rachel Strzelecki CPC-H-A Springfield MO Aubrey Baltzell CPC-A St Louis MO Shawn Hart CPC-A St Louis MO David James Hoffmann CPC-A St Louis MO Rvan McSpadden CPC-A St Peters MO Pamela K Bertels CPC-A Troy MO Heather May VanGels CPC-Á Valley Park MO Jessica Dawn Thieman CPC-A Wright City MO Gabrielle Lepre CPC-A Biloxi MS Rebecca M Gardner CPC-A Booneville MS Rehecca, Jane Risen CPC-A Buckatunna MS Shonda Ranae Hayden CPC-A Byhalia MS Stacey Thomas CPC-A Clinton MS Amanda Cecile Guidry CPC-A Florence MS Pearl Evelyn Parker CPC-A Hattiesburg MS Tiffany Kara Wright CPC-A Hattiesburg MS Racheal R Flax CPC-A Horn Lake MS Tina Marie Edwards CPC-A Jackson MS Shuntel Levone Taylor CPC-A Jackson MS Tamela S Veasley CPC-A Jonestown MS Launce Marcieus Anderson CPC-A Kassciuska MS Juley Elizabeth Taylor CPC-A Lake MS Kanisha Sharmaine Christian CPC-A Laurel MS Jennifer Ann Peppmuller CPC-A Olive Branch MS Jessica Ann Lemoine CPC-A Purvis MS Tina Marie Musgrove CPC-A Purvis MS Cindy B Sims CPC-A Water Valley MS Shandy Hanks CPC-A Billings M7 Joyce Marie Harp CPC-A Billings MT Bonnie April Bear Don't Walk CPC-A Busby MT Christine Adelle Teague CPC-A Clinton MT Twila Mann CPC-A Florence MT Pauline Faith Abbott CPC-A Frenchtown MT Angela Dawn Skolrud CPC-A Glasgow MT Lauri Hancock CPC-A Missoula MT Donna Peterson CPC-A Missoula MT Nissa Patricia Fennell CPC-A Polson MT Larry W Dailey CPC-A Archdale NC Jessica Long CPC-A Ash NC Vicki Gaddy CPC-A Asheville NC Danielle Guengerich CPC-A Asheville NC Kristen Love CPC-A Asheville NC Mary Anne Kroner CPC-A Cary NC Yanzhen Pan CPC-A Chapel Hill NC Audrey Brady CPC-A Charlotte NC Sean Brenner CPC-A Charlotte NC Salena Tennine Brown CPC-A Charlotte NC Lorie Crocker CPC-A Charlotte NC Niketa D Cunningham CPC-A Charlotte NC Tonia E Holland CPC-A Charlotte NC Kristen Murray CPC-A Charlotte NC Loretta Primus CPC-A Charlotte NC

Alice K Smrekar CPC-A Charlotte NC

Fred Martin Tannenbaum CPC-A Charlotte NC Charles Wilhelm CPC-A Charlotte NC Cheryl Patterson CPC-A Claremont NC Carolyn Averill CPC-A Cornelius NC Chrissy Pejsa CPC-A Cornelius NC Inez M Schwarzenegger CPC-A Cornelius NC Wendy Gaudette CPC-A Creedmoor NC Denise Goldston CPC-A Durham NC Tomara Parker CPC-A Durham NC Jennifer Pickett CPC-A Durham NC Joleen W Ridings CPC-A Elizabethtown NC Diane F Ingram CPC-H-A Favetteville NC Valorie Fox CPC-A Graham NC Reba Smith CPC-A Greensboro NC Jackie Brogie CPC-A Hendersonville NC Maricel Arus CPC-A High Point NC Jeanette MacLellan CPC-A High Point NC Patsy Weavil CPC-A High Point NC Andrea Dell CPC-A Huntersville NC Robin Hammond CPC-A Huntersville NC Sabrina R Honner CPC-A Huntersville NC Katie Jordan CPC-A Huntersville NC Barbara G Sparrow CPC-A Huntersville NC Josephine R Burke CPC-A Jacksonville NC Vicky Lynn Edwards CPC-A Jacksonville NC Rae Clement Herman CPC-A Jacksonville NC Elizabeth Morris CPC-A Jacksonville NC Mindie Musacchio CPC-A Jacksonville NC Gloria B Phillips CPC-A Jacksonville NC Lauralee Prentice CPC-A Jacksonville NC Kathy Thomas CPC-A Jacksonville NC Sindy Williams Benson CPC-A Lexington NC Diana W Gregory CPC-A Lexington NC Donna Koonts CPC-A Lexington NC Kimberley Annette Arrowood CPC-A Marion NC Su Desilva CPC-A Marshville NC Paul Frank Capriglione CPC-A Matthews NC Judith Grose CPC-A Matthews NC Susan Gunter CPC-A Matthews NC Clyda Armstrong CPC-A Mooresville NC Mai Xiong CPC-A Mooresville NC Tromona Harper CPC-A New Bern NC Kendra Johnson CPC-A Ocean Isle Beach NC Jennifer Faulk CPC-A Raleigh NC Akram Shirinzad CPC-A Raleigh NC Emily Andrews CPC-A Richlands NC Jan Manning CPC-A Richlands NC Holly Amber Smith CPC-A Richlands NC Katelyn Elizabeth Via-Mathias CPC-A Richlands NC Roxanne Branscomb CPC-A Statesville NC Ana Garcia-Morales CPC-A Statesville NC Carmon Roberts CPC-A Taylorsville NC Dawn Mcquaigue CPC-A Trinity NC Jeanne Lewis CPC-A Waxhaw NC Chelsea Nicole Downey CPC-A Wilmington NC Shirley Klingensmith CPC-A Wilmington NC Debbie Toth CPC-A Wilmington NC Heather Jones CPC-A Winston-Salem NC Marcy Andersen CPC-A Fargo ND Brianna Kern CPC-A Fargo ND Amber Petznick CPC-A Fargo ND Javla Domres CPC-A Grand Forks ND Heather Block CPC-A Omaha NE Diane Marie Chiesa CPC-A Omaha NE Cindy Cook CPC-A Omaha NE Pam Kent CPC-A Omaha NE Lynda Joy Manning CPC-A Omaha NE I vnell A Mansfield CPC-A Omaha NF Tracey Arthur CPC-A Barrington NH Brenda Aliberti CPC-A Concord NH Cathleen Smith CPC-A Danville NH Kristen Wilson CPC-A Derry NH Michele DeMarco CPC-A, ĆPC-H-A East Hampstead NH Kim F Kosow CPC-A Exeter NH Cheryl Papalian CPC-A Exeter NH Kathleen Book CPC-A Farmington NH Patricia Kellev CPC-A Greenland NH Maureen Jones CPC-H-A Hampstead NH Cynthia Stoddard CPC-A Hampton NH Linda Lou Russell CPC-A Lebanon NH Andrea Gingras CPC-A Lee NH Shelly Ladd CPC-A Litchfield NH Christina Lubin CPC-A Manchester NH Sarah Clarke CPC-A Nashua NH Trisha Guest CPC-A Nashua NH Gretchen Wolfe CPC-A Pittsfield NH Mia Kathryn Crowe CPC-AW Lebanon NH Raegan Cole CPC-A Aberdeen NJ Kathleen Fuscellaro CPC-A Atco NJ Christina Fennell CPC-A Atlantic Highlands NJ

Kathryn Dressler CPC-A Beachwood NJ Jo Ann Whitman CPC-A Beachwood N.I. Robin E Rosenkranz CPC-A Berlin NJ Genina Byers CPC-A Burlington NJ Michael Colonna CPC-A Cedar Grove NJ Sherry D Ward CPC-A East Orange NJ Susan Newman CPC-A Englishtown NJ Roma Aleksander CPC-A Ewing NJ Michael A Johnson CPC-A Ewing NJ Sarah Song CPC-A Florham Park NJ Victor L Mobley CPC-A Franklin Park NJ Barbara Kleinschmidt CPC-A Freehold NJ Joan Sin CPC-A Howell NJ Linda Carroll CPC-A Island Heights NJ Lito Jamarolin Azcuna CPC-A Jersev City NJ Milagros Acebedo Pediongco CPC-A Jersey City NJ Linda Seda CPC-A Lakewood NJ Karen Grabowski CPC-A Manalapan NJ Jennifer Lugo CPC-A Manalapan NJ Vidhya Rangaswamy CPC-A Marlton NJ Gretchen Gunderson CPC-A Matawan N I Patricia Todaro CPC-A Matawan NJ Betsy Ranjan CPC-A Maywood NJ Maureen Toale CPC-A Middletown NJ Jill Nevad CPC-A Neptune NJ Kristin D'Ambrisi CPC-A Oakhurst NJ Eileen Buono CPC-A Ocean Grove NJ Laila M Chaoui CPC-A Paramus NJ Olena Tchoudov CPC-A Pine Beach NJ Sally Chan-So CPC-A Plainsboro NJ Sarah Ecroyd CPC-A Princeton NJ Susan Golden CPC-A Princeton NJ Nicole Key CPC-A Red Bank NJ Kartika Shree CPC-A Robbinsville NJ Ward Taggart CPC-A Skillman NJ Glenda Frazier CPC-A Somerset NJ MaryBeth Morrison CPC-A Swedesboro NJ Adrienne Michele Gergich CPC-A Toms River NJ Suzanne Romeo CPC-A Waretown NJ Jill Fisher CPC-P-A Whiting NJ Jacqueline D Dixon CPC-A Willingboro NJ Wendy Mova CPC-A Albuquerque NM James Lee Padilla CPC-A Albuquerque NM Hyacinth Vargas Padua CPC-A Albuquerque NM Daniella Sarracino CPC-A Albuquerque NM Shari Thompson CPC-A Albuquerque NM Michele Trowbridge CPC-A Albuquerque NM Norma Cavazone CPC-A Dulce NM Gertrude Luian CPC-A Isleta NM Nancy A Martin CPC-A Moriarty NM Elisia Baker CPC-A Rio Rancho NM Antonina Barbour CPC-H-A Rio Rancho NM Perry Moran CPC-A Rio Rancho NM Kimberly Spear CPC-A Roswell NM Kimberly Soto CPC-A Santa Teresa NM Veronica Salinas CPC-A Sunland Park NM Patricia E Francis CPC-A Femley NV Nhi Douglas CPC-A Las Vegas NV Doree L Pankratz CPC-A Las Vegas NV Stephanie Sierra CPC-A Las Vegas NV Debi McI aughlin CPC-A Reno NV Theresa M Trussell CPC-A Reno NV Tandra Nerine Walker CPC-A Reno NV Suzanne Moler CPC-A Sparks NV Darren Andrew Conrov CPC-A Albany NY Meghan Elizabeth Fox CPC-A Albany NY Ladine Thomas CPC-A Amherst NY Cheryl A Zumbolo CPC-A Amsterdam NY Megan Riley CPC-A Argyle NY Della A Falter CPC-A Baldwinsville NY Theresa Giuliano CPC-A Belle Harbor NY Kim Chandler CPC-A Binghamton NY Marine E Bryan CPC-A Bronx NY Sasha Alecia Buchannan CPC-A Bronx NY Rhonda Reid CPC-A Bronx NY Carmen Leone CPC-A Brooklyn NY Cheryl Anne Harkness CPC-A Cameron NY Sarah Giroux CPC-A Chestertown NY Tracy L Hickey CPC-A Cicero NY Barbara M Crecca CPC-A Clifton Park NY Carrie Watt CPC-A Coming NY Rachel Misao Reitano CPC-A East Syracuse NY Alissa Marie Daniels CPC-A Elmira NY Jennifer Lynn Hubbard CPC-A Elmira NY Jacqueline K Sharack CPC-A Elmira NY Vyacheslav Niyazov CPC-A Forest Hills NY Karen E Steidl CPC-A Forest Hills NY Brenda J Travis CPC-A Frankfort NY Sorbourni F McKenzie CPC-A Freeport NY Amina Alam CPC-A Fresh Meadows NY Usha S Hariprashad CPC-A Glen Oaks NY

Debra Schwab CPC-A Glendale NY Mary Theresa Barnes CPC-A Greene NY Deborah Leveille CPC-A Greenfield Center NY Shawnte Deans CPC-A Hempstead NY Corinn Marie Cannelli CPC-A Highland NY Robyn Lindstadt CPC-A Huntington Station NY Tam Michele DeOrsey CPC-A Jordan NY Tina Marie Forys CPC-A Lockport NY Nancy Arlene House CPC-A Lockwood NY Rosalia Martinez CPC-A Long Island City NY Charlene Charron CPC-A Mount Upton NY Linda S Barnes CPC-A N Syracuse NY Felicia A Burak CPC-A New Hartford NY Jason Radell CPC-A New Hartford NY Diana Priya Kichenamourty CPC-A New Hyde Park NY Diana Berisha CPC-A New Rochelle NY Bret Edward Delaire CPC-A New York NY Alexander Galvez CPC-A New York NY Yvette Gaudreau CPC-A New York NY Yvonne J Lawrence CPC-A New York NY Sudanasia Shabazz-Allah CPC-A New York NY Monica Souza Silva CPC-A New York NY Paulette Williams CPC-A Newark Valley NY Cheryl R Lewis CPC-A Newburgh NY Linda K Huge CPC-A Niskayuna NY Teresa Pieper CPC-A North Chili NY Deborah Rush CPC-A North Syracuse NV Meredith Muller CPC-A Oakland Gardens NY Kelly A Patterson CPC-A Oswego NY Donna Jean Shumskis CPC-A Oswego NY Diane L Jones CPC-A Owego NY Angelita McEvoy CPC-A Pittsford NY Joan Crescenzo CPC-A Poughkeepsie NY Mercedes M Granda CPC-A Poughkeepsie NY Janie Beatrice McCall CPC-A Poughkeepsie NY Nalini Devierira CPC-A Queens Village NY Shelliza M Rasheed CPC-A Queens Village NY Nicole Salone CPC-A Queensbury NY Claudia Patricia Betancourt CPC-A Rego Park NY Gale F Snide CPC-A Rensselaer NY Nadia Salina Ahmed CPC-A Richmond Hill NY Brian W Pratt CPC-A Rock Stream NY Emily Dingee CPC-A Saratoga Springs NY Nancy K Glaim CPC-A Saratoga Springs NY Joanne Marie Warner CPC-A Savannah NY Anna Maria LaTorre CPC-A Schedectady NY Sharon L Dougherty CPC-A Schenectady NY Rosemary Snell CPC-A South New Berlin NY Veronica Wendy Garcia CPC-A South Ozone Park NY Charlotte A Delaremore CPC-A St Albans NY Kelley King CPC-A Staatsburg NY Frances Louise Brown CPC-A Syracuse NY Teresa R Hartnett CPC-A Syracuse NY Katherine Nicole Maloney CPC-A Syracuse NY Susan S Schulze CPC-A Syracuse NY Tina Marie Terrinoni CPC-A Syracuse NY Dana Shadrick CPC-A West Islip NY Abisheha Kumar Carlis CPC-A Woodside NY Susan Dumet CPC-A Yonkers NY Mercedita Hinebaugh CPC-A Yonkers NY Lydian Elizabeth Miller CPC-A Akron OH Nicole M Oliver CPC-A Akron OH Patricia Wilson CPC-A Ashley OH Jamilya Renee Thomas CPC-A Bedford OH Jon Herman Fueston CPC-A Blanchester OH Kerri Lynn Magruder CPC-A Centerville OH Laura L Dalessandro CPC-A Chesterland OH Maria Fox CPC-A Cincinnati OH Stephanie Kohan CPC-A Cincinnati OH Amy Marie Kamenec CPC-A Cleveland OH Melissa Ragland CPC-A Cleveland OH Pamela D Walker CPC-A Cleveland OH Rosy E John CPC-A Cleveland Heights OH Michelle Clara Yount CPC-A Dayton OH Kristen Kathleen Perv CPC-A Doylestown OH Brice Duffie CPC-A Germantown OH Paul Rippel CPC-A Holland OH Sally A Edwards CPC-A Hudson OH Sharon Bechtel CPC-A Lakewood OH Brandon Christman CPC-A Lebanon OH Shannen Shively CPC-A Lewisburg OH Pamela Ramp CPC-A Liberty Township OH Alicia Mary Odenweller CPC-A Lima OH Liz Snyder CPC-A Lima OH Lisa Osen CPC-A Mansfield OH Amanda G Neff CPC-A Marshallville OH Gina McDonald CPC-A Massillon OH Angela Watkins CPC-A Massillon OH Janet R Blackmore CPC-A Maumee OH Toni Callender CPC-A Middletown OH

Jodi Lowy CPC-A Moreland Hills OH Donald Searcy CPC-A Niles OH LaToya Humphries CPC-A Painesville OH Amy Lynn Piazza CPC-A Parma OH Ronette Suzanne Davis CPC-A Pigua OH Rumana Karimi CPC-A Poland OH Bev Burrows CPC-A Rittman OH Karen Lorraine Croskev CPC-A Shreve OH Kerstin Marie Mann CPC-A Shreve OH Ronnie Lynn Holt CPC-A Thompson OH Sean D Covert CPC-A Toledo OH Felecia Faye Dabner CPC-A Toledo OH Amy Catherine Files CPC-A Toledo OH Antonette R Harris CPC-A Toledo OH Uthaya Goel CPC-A Twinsburg OH Tina Anita Bell CPC-A Warrensville Heights OH Patricia A Valentino CPC-A Willoughby OH Michelle Sheets CPC-A Willshire OH Malinda B Kauffman CPC-A Wooster OH Ronda Barberi CPC-A Bartlesville OK Kimberly Hough CPC-A Bartlesville OK Tammy Slaughter CPC-A Bartlesville Ok Nanci Tankersley CPC-A Bartlesville OK Laura Danielle Black CPC-A Hobart OK Justen Ellis CPC-A Tulsa OK William Crunk CPC-A Albany OR Sally A Carroll CPC-A Beaverton OR Sophana Sisavatdy CPC-A Beaverton OR Kristin Kay Trost CPC-A Corvallis OR Brian Proski CPC-A Gladstone OR Shannon Hawkins CPC-A Gold Beach OR Chris Catt CPC-A Portland OR Tylena Farmer CPC-A Portland OR Monique Gangle CPC-A Portland OR Rachel Jennings CPC-A Portland OR Francis Martinez CPC-A Portland OR Cyntonnya Reynolds CPC-A Portland OR Cristina Tran CPC-A Portland OR Kathryn Yrizarry CPC-A Portland OR Alyssa Glynn CPC-A Salem OR Stacy Weathermon CPC-A Salem OR Mary Houck CPC-A, CPC-H-A Airville PA Jennifer Lee Miller CPC-A Akron PA Jean-Marie Fogarty CPC-A Albion PA Jill S Weaver CPC-A Annville PA Mary Ellen Ruhling CPC-A Ardsley PA Cynthia Pilla CPC-A Aston PA Diana Hazlett CPC-A Bellwood PA Maria Ferrara CPC-A Bensalem PA Linda Schweitzer CPC-A Blue Bell PA Jean Liermann CPC-A Bridgeville PA Mark Schaefer CPC-A Broomall PA Kathryn A Kocher CPC-A Bulter PA Andrea M Hiester CPC-A Camp Hill PA Nancy Ellen Jacoby CPC-A Carlisle PA Catalena Cachat CPC-A Chambersburg PA Tricia Doyle CPC-A Christiana PA Barbara Fuchs CPC-A Collegeville PA Cortney Lamberson CPC-A Columbia PA Kristie Lukus CPC-A Columbia PA Mary DeMarco CPC-A Drexel Hill PA J. Rebecca di Gregorio CPC-A Eagleville PA Joyce Shampoe CPC-A Edinboro PA Sandra Rogers CPC-A Ephrata PA Jessica Lenea Nelson CPC-A Erie PA Wendy Slawter CPC-A Folsom PA Kimberly Guise CPC-A Gettysburg PA Stefanie Newton CPC-A Glen Rock PA Joanna Mazepink CPC-A Glenolden PA Elizabeth Ferguson CPC-A Greenville PA Jennifer Geisz CPC-A Jenkintown PA Bridget Shultz CPC-A Johnstown PA Teresita Diaz CPC-A King of Prussia PA Stacev Farris CPC-A Lancaster PA Amada Fernandez CPC-A Lancaster PA Karen E Sowers CPC-A Lancaster PA Cassandra Loeb CPC-A Lawn PA Cathy Plummer CPC-A Leola PA Sachita Acharya Sharma CPC-A Lititz PA H Patricia Haller CPC-A Lititz PA Bridgitt Marley CPC-A Lititz PA Cynthia Snyder CPC-A Lititz PA Deena Marie Peblev CPC-A Littlestown PA Nannette M Bedi CPC-A Manheim PA Kathleen Stauffer CPC-A Manheim PA Vicki E Williams CPC-A Meadville PA Melanie Nicole Rhykerd CPC-A Mechanicsburg PA Jennifer Morgan CPC-A Moon Township PA Jill McDonald CPC-A Mountville PA

Linda Welber CPC-A Mountville PA

Leonore (Lee) Glowacki CPC-A Myerstown PA

Mary Ciccaglione CPC-A Norristown PA Deborah Miller CPC-A Oxford PA Pamela Sue Patton CPC-A Paradise PA Sheila Colalongo CPC-A Philadelphia PA Danielle J Denino CPC-A Philadelphia PA Aleisha Leach CPC-A Philadelphia PA Lashea Scarborough CPC-A Philadelphia PA Michele Smith CPC-A Philadelphia PA Marianne Brown CPC-A Pittsburgh PA Kelly Lynn Hamm CPC-A Pittsburgh PA Jessica Anthony CPC-A Portage PA Sandra Zernhelt CPC-A Reading PA Shannon R Leonard CPC-A, CPC-H-A Red Lion PA Christa Mcwilliams CPC-A Red Lion PA Larry Powell CPC-A Royersford PA Toni Mcewen CPC-A Sandy Lake PA Ginger Deal CPC-A Seneca PA Jennifer Jacoby CPC-A Seneca PA Carla Hawthorne CPC-A Sharpsville PA Michelle Weber CPC-A Stevens PA Michael Bender CPC-A Strasburg PA Rosemarie Botticelli CPC-A Wallingford PA Kimberly A Tedrow CPC-A Waynesburg PA Michael Barwinski CPC-A West Lawn PA Jean Holleran CPC-A Wexford PA Kimberly Harnish CPC-A Willow Street PA Kimberley, J. Robinson, CPC-H-A Woodland, PA Kelly Mellinger CPC-A Wyomissing PA Teresa E Wickman CPC-A Wyomissing PA Helena Carroll CPC-A York PA Belinda DeShields CPC-A York PA Sharon Hartman CPC-A York PA Krista Howard CPC-A York PA Gillian Johnson CPC-A York PA Cheryl McDonough CPC-A York PA Diane K Oberlander CPC-A York PA Eileen H Ritter CPC-A York PA Kathryn Elizabeth Kaplan CPC-A Cranston RI Donna Mulcahy CPC-A Cranston RI Robert P Smith CPC-A Cranston RI Monique Marie Deraimo CPC-A Foster RI Lisa A Braga CPC-A Portsmouth RI Marilyn Martin CPC-A Portsmouth RI Rachel Dow CPC-A Riverside RI Lauren Elizabeth Altman CPC-A Charleston SC Deborah Benmaman CPC-A Charleston SC Judith Kristine Gunnels CPC-A Charleston SC Karen Ann Laport CPC-A Charleston SC Jovne Wyatt CPC-A Fasley SC Jennifer Quarles CPC-A Edgefield SC Karen Davis CPC-A Florence SC Amanda Ann Reynolds CPC-A Ft Mill SC Ovella Bonaparté CPC-A Goose Creek SC Debra G Jones CPC-A Great Falls SC Jeffrev David Smith CPC-A Greenville SC Jason Allen Liberty CPC-A Hanahan SC Miranda Hodgson CPC-A Ladson SC Lakesha Danielle Thomas CPC-A Ladson SC Cherelle Archie-Brown CPC-A Lancaster SC Mammie Lee Williams CPC-A Lancaster SC Katherine Dixon CPC-A Lexington SC Aimee Nichole Kimbrell CPC-A Mauldin SC Jessica Vaughan CPC-A Meggett SC Rose Murray CPC-A North Charleston SC Traci Curry CPC-A Summerville SC Beth Murrell CPC-A Trenton SC Leisa M Rauch CPC-A Walterboro SC Laura Hemmer CPC-A Crooks SD Rose Maria Nowlin CPC-A Mitchell SD Jennifer Jean Guindon CPC-A Plankinton SD Brian R Jude CPC-A Antioch TN Lynn Robinson-White CPC-A Antioch TN Sandra Patricia Santiago CPC-A Antioch TN Janet G Harrington CPC-A Blountville TN Jonnie Lynn Smith CPC-A Byrdstown TN Cynthia Payne CPC-A Chapmansboro TN Sally Delashmitt CPC-A Chattanooga TN Sharm Perry CPC-A Cleveland TN Angela Jane Delk CPC-A Columbia TN Billie Ann Ely CPC-A Columbia TN Mary Ann Hensley CPC-A Columbia TN Karen Mctigrit CPC-A Columbia TN Sherry A Rochester CPC-A Columbia TN Tonya LeAnn Watson CPC-A Corryton TN Tanya Chism CPC-A Crossville TN Lauren Nicole Keene CPC-A Ethridge TN Lisa Holt CPC-A Franklin TN Amy Marie Markovich CPC-A Franklin TN Sara Williams CPC-A Franklin TN

Misty Brassell CPC-A Gallatin TN

Tera Michele Lynch CPC-A Gordonsville TN

Jennifer Showalter CPC-A Greenbrier TN Kim Frey CPC-A Hendersonville TN Tosha Myles CPC-A Jackson TN Paula A Lam CPC-A Johnson City TN Tonya L Snyder CPC-A Johnson City TN Julie Nicole Corvette CPC-A Knoxville TN Norma Clark CPC-A LaVergne TN Caroline Elizabeth Bottoms CPC-A Lawrenceburg TN Connie Darlene Corter CPC-A Lewisburg TN Teresa Young CPC-A Lewisburg TN Janet Bressman CPC-A Linden TN Amy Sherrell Valentine CPC-A Memphis TN Wendie Spintzyk CPC-A Moss TN Kristine M Heckert CPC-A Mt Juliet TN Tammy Keeble CPC-A Murfreesboro TN Beth Fisher CPC-A Nashville TN Heather Haves CPC-A Nashville TN Andrea Paige Movitz CPC-A Nashville TN Amanda Fillers CPC-A Niota TN Whitney Williams CPC-A Paris TN Karen Sartain CPC-A Pleasantview TN Nikki Bowser CPC-A Portland TN James R Teegarden CPC-A Pulaski TN Michelle Renee Walls CPC-A, CPC-H-A Pulaski TN Rachel Steurer CPC-A Smyrna TN Temekia Kee CPC-A Somerville TN Kimberly Hughey Cornish CPC-A Spring Hill TN Melissa Cozze CPC-A, CPC-H-A Spring Hill TN Mary Gerhard CPC-A Spring Hill TN Katherine Anne Moore CPC-A Spring Hill TN James Stanley Prusinowski CPC-A Spring Hill TN Christine Tussey CPC-A Springville TN Juanita Wix CPC-A Summertown TN Anita White CPC-A Unionville TN Renee Alisha Westbrook CPC-A Abilene TX Simeon Aymeloglu CPC-A Allen TX Aniko Rado CPC-A Allen TX Nancy Shue CPC-P-A Arlington TX Yvette Solis CPC-A Atascosa TX Michele Lopez CPC-A Bastrop TX Sherrill Cox CPC-A Baytown TX Fikirte Bihon CPC-H-A Bellaire TX Issac Herrera CPC-A Brownsville TX Casandra Marie Rico CPC-A Brownsville TX Carla Sapoznikov CPC-A Carrollton TX Mary K Martin CPC-A Clear Lake Shores TX Sha Estelle Russo CPC-A Cypress TX Vicki Wright Newell CPC-A Dallas TX Melissa Ann Quintero CPC-A Del Valle TX Marsha Meadows CPC-A Denton TX Dulce Nuncio-Wall CPC-A Desoto TX Emily Singleton CPC-A Desoto TX Melissa Aguirre CPC-A El Paso TX Louie Alansalon CPC-A El Paso TX Eric Daniel Gutierrez CPC-A El Paso TX Marielle Morales-Loya CPC-A El Paso TX Maria Cristina Rey CPC-A El Paso TX Patricia C Teran CPC-H-A FI Paso TX John Payne CPC-A Euless TX Sue Craven CPC-A, CPC-H-A Friendswood TX M. Jayna Birt CPC-A Ft Worth TX Nicole Martin CPC-A Ft Worth TX Cathy Lee Reason CPC-A Ft Worth TX Shannon Stanphill CPC-A Ft Worth TX William Van Wagner CPC-A Ft Worth TX Mercecris Viteno CPC-A Ft Worth TX Leo Zofrea CPC-A Ft Worth TX Dana Kennedy CPC-A Garland TX Melinda Nguyen-McClellan CPC-A Garland TX Lilia Kennedy CPC-A Georgetown TX Kristian Kohl CPC-A Glenn Heights TX Kellee Evans CPC-A Hallettsville TX Theresa Marie Harper CPC-A Holly Lake Ranch TX Ashlee Jone' Barnes CPC-A Houston TX Chartonya Brown CPC-A Houston TX Diane Louise Prendes CPC-A Houston TX Amv M Pvle CPC-A Houston TX Susanna Sanchez CPC-A Houston TX Celeste Urdiales Trejo CPC-A Houston TX Valeria Viteri CPC-A Houston TX Sharlenta Johnson CPC-A Irving TX Nirmala Karunakaran CPC-A Irving TX Andrew Saunders CPC-A Irving TX Beverly Autrey CPC-A Katy TX Miranda Autrey CPC-A Katy TX Sara Kittel CPC-A Keller TX Pamela Jean Zulauf CPC-A League City TX Griselda Ann Solis CPC-A Los Fresnos TX Sonia Ross CPC-H-A Missouri TX

Kulwinder Kattaria CPC-A Murphy TX

Alma Butterfield CPC-A North Richland Hills TX Lynne Landry CPC-A Pasadena TX Ancy Daniel CPC-H-A Pearland TX Saju Paul CPC-H-A Pearland TX Jill Allen CPC-A Plano TX Nasima Ayub CPC-A Plano TX Lisa DiGann CPC-A Plano TX Monshea Johnson CPC-A Plano TX Kennethea King CPC-A Plano TX Kyoung You CPC-A Plano TX James Pritchett CPC-A Purdon TX Amanda J Calvillo CPC-A Richmond TX Terri Renee Siemens CPC-A Roanoke TX Lori Fuller-Salazar CPC-A Round Rock TX Tiffany Carr CPC-A Rowlett TX Corinthia Shepherd CPC-A, CPC-H-A Rowlett TX Donna A Hughes CPC-A San Antonio TX Kim Jackson CPC-A San Antonio TX Yvonne Macias CPC-A San Antonio TX Irene Masters CPC-A San Antonio TX Lydia Ramirez CPC-A San Antonio TX Santa Smith CPC-A San Antonio TX Cora H Soriano CPC-A San Antonio TX Pamela J Waddell CPC-A San Antonio TX Gracie Gonzales CPC-A Schertz TX Katherine Alexander CPC-A Spring TX Cynthia Boros CPC-A Spring TX Tara Danielle Britton CPC-A Texas City TX Amanda Dewbre CPC-A The Colony T Jody LaNay Berkowitz CPC-A Valley Mills TX Jasmin Khatoon CPC-A Webster TX Kristi Compton CPC-A Wylie TX John Thomas CPC-A Wylie TX Holly Jensen CPC-A Cedar City UT Jané Allred CPC-A Hildale UT May Keate CPC-A Hildale UT Joy B Meldrum CPC-A Hildale UT Rebecca Warner CPC-A Hildale UT Karelian Zitting CPC-A Hildale UT Denise Hancock CPC-A Keams UT Tammy Albright CPC-A Magna UT Terra Garvoille CPC-A Magna LIT Jacqueline Dent CPC-A Midvale UT Emily Winger CPC-A Murray UT Debbie Brown CPC-A Ogden UT Chelsea Tracy CPC-A Ogden UT Tamra Cromer CPC-A Roy UT Kathleen Atwood CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Eliza Black CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Christine Case CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Nonnie V Choy CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Bethany Crawford CPC-H-A Salt Lake City UT Elizabeth Hayes CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Heather Grace Johnson CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Stephanie Jones CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Brett Squire CPC-A Salt Lake City UT Lori England CPC-A Sandy UT SuNam Larsen CPC-A Sandv UT Britnie Richards CPC-A Sandy UT Janet Robinson CPC-A Sandy UT Lisa Tokunaga CPC-A Sandy UT Jodie Hunsaker CPC-A South Jordan UT Cassie Cheri Lindsay CPC-A South Jordan UT Jerri Yoshikawa CPC-A South Jordan UT Tina Majers CPC-A Spanish Fork UT Karla Smith CPC-A Spanish Fork UT Yara Neu CPC-A Taylorsville UT Rhonda Suarez CPC-A Tooele UT Bridgette Allen CPC-A West Jordan UT Jennifer Christensen CPC-A West Jordan UT Koloseta Ikimau CPC-A West Jordan UT Aura Murray CPC-A West Jordan UT Marcia Pryor CPC-A West Jordan UT Patricia Audet CPC-A Alexandria VA Cathy B Johnson CPC-A Big Stone Gap VA Jackie R McPherson CPC-A Blackwater VA Lisa Smith CPC-A Broadway VA Karen Ann Ferguson CPC-A Capron VA Deborah Tillery Bradshaw CPC-A Carrsville VA Lavonna Donald CPC-A Chesapeake VA Karen Jean Mosz CPC-A Chester VA Cierra Brooke Sexton CPC-A Coeburn VA Shervl Porter Dodson CPC-A Courtland VA Betty Williams Joyner CPC-A Courtland VA Lucie Ann Richard CPC-A Courtland VA Jamie Rae VanMeter CPC-A Cross Junction VA Melissa Boyers CPC-A Dillwyn VA Sheree Rogers Marlin CPC-A Franklin VA Karen B Pierce CPC-A Franklin VA Sandra Gillingham CPC-H-A Front Royal VA Ruth Drucilla Diamond CPC-A Hampton VA

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#### Specialties

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Janice Martine

Rehenna E Adeleki

CRHC Debary FL

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CPC, CEMC N Ft Myers FL

CPC, CPRC Ocala FL

CPC-A, CCC Flkhom NF CPC, CEMC Canaan NH CPC, CEMC Henniker NH CPC, CIMC Old Bridge NJ CPC, CEMC, COSC Albuquerque NM CUC Albuquerque NM CPC, COSC Reno NV CPC, CEDC Alexander NY CPC, CPMA, CEMC Canisteo NY CEDC Clifton Park NY Linda K Osbo CPC, CPMA, CEMC Hastings On Hudson NY CPC, CCVTC New York NY CPC, CCC Poughkeepsie NY CPC, CGSC Brecksville OH Rachel Bogs CGSC Vinton OH COSC Waynesville OH CPC, CASCC Westlake OH Kim K Nasl CPC, CPC-H, CEMC Beaverton OR CPC, CCC Lebanon OR CPC, CASCC, CEMC North Bend OR Stacy Lynne Ride CPC, CGSC Dillsburg PA CPC, CFMC Hanover PA COSC Jefferson Hills PA Cathy Humma CPCD Lancaster PA CPC, CGSC Mechanicsburg PA CPC, CCC Westmoreland City PA Sharon Lynn Meye CPC, CEMC Pawtucket RI CPC, CPEDC Goose Creek SC Jaimie Marie Larson CPC, COSC Plankinton SD Felecia Ann Armstrons CPC-A, CEMC Columbia TN CPC-A, CEMC Columbia TN CCC Cordova TN CPC, CEMC Hermitage TN CPC, CFPC Maryville TN CPC, CCC Maryville TN CPC, COSC, Nashville TN CPC, CEMC Dallas TX CPC, CGIC Diana TX Diana Munguia, CASCC Harlingen TX

Marcia Bourne

CPC, CANPC Fletcher NC

CPC, CFPC Huntersville NC

CPC, CEDC Zionville NC

CENTC Gastonia NC

CPC, COBGC McKinney TX CPC, CEMC Midland TX COSC Rockwall TX CPC, CIMC Watauga TX CPC CEMC Springfield VA CPC, CFMC Milton VT CPC, CEDC Mountlake Terrace WA CEDC Naches WA CPC, CHONC Walla Walla WA Rebecca Robins CPC, COSC Yakima WA CPC, CEDC Madison WI CFPC Manitowoc WI Sharon M Rion CPC, CASCC Middleton WI umana Radan CPC, CGSC, COBGC, CUC Milwaukee WI CPC-A, CPC-H-A, CPC-P-A, CCC Dunbar WV

#### Magna Cum Laude

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# Enhance Your Professional Compliance Status

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hile the job market in many sectors is difficult, the increased focus of the government and commercial carriers on identifying fraud, waste, and abuse—not to mention simple payment error—has opened up much opportunity in the health care compliance arena. For many years, trained compliance professionals had difficulty finding positions in their field. Small to mid-size practices didn't see the need to hire dedicated compliance personnel and mostly saw implementation of compliance programs as an unjustified expense. Even when compliance efforts were undertaken, the role of compliance officer was either assumed by the physician or was thrust onto an unsuspecting and untrained coder or office manager.

#### **Follow Compliance Trends**

The trend in federal law has certainly elevated the need for trained compliance professionals. Passage of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act (FERA), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HI-TECH) Act, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) have substantially increased government enforcement authority for false claims and privacy/security violations. Compliance efforts are no longer an option, they are a necessity. Also notable within PPACA is the authority for the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to mandate implementation of formal compliance plans. Given this statutory authority, it is no longer a question of IF physician practices will be mandated to implement formal compliance programs, but WHEN. With these substantial changes in enforcement coupled with the looming mandate of formal compliance program implementation, there couldn't be a better time to enhance your professional skills with formal compliance training and certification.

#### Compliance Know-how Can Improve Profit

Sooner or later, practices will have to bite the bullet and implement compliance programs. Compliance program implementation certainly involves a degree of cost going in; however, a surprising but often experienced outcome is an increased profit margin. The benefits can be measured both in the short and long term.

Short-term profitability is measured in reduced claim denials, reduced expenses in claims processing (fewer re-submits and appeals), and improved collections. Such results are a by-product of risk analysis, which forces the practice to identify carrier-specific billing and reimbursement rules. Knowing these rules and being compliant with them will reduce incidents of claim denial due to errors in billing or documentation deficiencies. The educational component of a compliance program ensures all practice members are aware of any specific risks or problems so correction occurs in a timely fashion again, reducing incidents of non-payment or diminished payment.

The long-term impact to profitability is measured in terms of diminished post-payment risk. Having an effective compliance program will significantly reduce a practice's potential of becoming the target of fraudulent conduct allegations, which are costly to defend.

#### Certify Compliance Skills for Today's Job Market

The result of an increased emphasis on compliance is an increased need for trained compliance professionals. Because the most significant area of compliance risk is fraud and abuse (billing), coding professionals can easily fill these compliance positions with some additional training. Coding professionals are well-suited for the CPCO™ credential because they are:

- already familiar with carrier-specific coding and reimbursement rules;
- usually the individuals in a practice who are most concerned with compliance; and
- most suitable for taking the lead in their practice's compliance efforts.

With the elevated enforcement climate, the pending mandate to implement an effective compliance program, and the benefits of effective compliance program implementation; no practice can afford to ignore compliance any longer. Compliance is no longer an "extra" obligation—it's a primary responsibility. Coding professionals who enhance their professional skill set with compliance training and certification offered by AAPC will be well positioned to respond to the increasing need for certified compliance officers.

To find out more about the CPCO™ credential, go to the AAPC website at:

www.aapc.com/certification/cpco.aspx. @



Michael D. Miscoe, JD, CPC, CASCC, CUC, CCPC, CPCO, CHCC, has a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Military Academy, a juris doctorate degree from Concord Law School, is the president of Practice Masters, Inc., and the founding partner of Miscoe Health Law, LLC. He is a

past member of AAPC's National Advisory Board (NAB) and a current member of the Legal Advisory Board. He is admitted to the Bar in California and to practice law before the U.S. District Courts in the Southern District of California and the Western District of Pennsylvania. He has nearly 20 years of experience in health care coding and over 15 years as a coding and compliance expert testifying in civil and criminal cases. He is a national speaker and has been published in numerous national publications.

With these substantial changes in enforcement, coupled with the looming mandate of formal compliance program implementation, there couldn't be a better time to enhance your professional skills with formal compliance training and certification.





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# An Answer to All Your Local Chapter Questions

#### Let the Local Chapter Handbook be your guide.

Each day the AAPC local chapter department receives a number of calls and e-mails from local chapter officers asking a myriad of questions. Often the questions could have been answered by simply referring to the *Local Chapter Handbook*. Once members agree to accept a position as an officer, they agree to "Comply with all requirements as outlined in the *Local Chapter Handbook*."

It is important for every officer to read the handbook when he or she takes office and again when it is updated mid-year. It's a good idea to have a hard copy or electronic version of it available at all local chapter meetings. This can be very helpful when members have question or even fellow officers have questions.

With the help of the AAPC local chapter department, the AAPC Chapter Association (AAPCCA) compiled a list of the most frequently asked questions and where to find the answers in the handbook.

#### Q1. What is required to keep our chapter in good standing?

- A1. The list of requirements can be found in chapter 2, Local Chapter, section 4, Expectations of Local Chapter Officers:
  - **4.1.1** "Promote the AAPC and its mission on a local level."
  - **4.1.2** "Communicate all local concerns with the AAPC in a timely manner."
  - **4.1.3** "Submit the current Election Verification information within 30 days of elections."
  - **4.1.4** "Hold at least six (6) regular approved meetings per year where CEUs are offered."
  - **4.1.5** "Sponsor at least four (4) certification examinations each year, guarterly."
  - **4.1.6** "Abide by the rules of the Local Chapter Proctor Site Agreement found in Chapter 9 of this handbook."
  - **4.1.7** "Ensure appropriate use of chapter funds as outlined in the handbook."
  - **4.1.8** "Submit a Profit and Loss Statement for the preceding calendar year by January 15th of the following year."
  - 4.1.9 "Ensure that local chapter membership lists are used expressly for local chapter activities/business. It is recommended that officers not forward emails such as job openings to their members. This information should be communicated at a chapter meeting, through the chapter newsletter or on your individual AAPC local chapter forum."
  - **4.1.10** "Misuse of the chapter member list constitutes grounds for dismissal from office."
  - **4.1.11** "Encourage use of AAPC forums for networking purposes between chapter members."
  - **4.1.12** "To ensure the members' privacy, officers should add chapter members' email addresses to the blind copy line for any group email. The member list is available on the AAPC website and can be downloaded, copied and pasted into an email document."
  - 4.1.13 "Comply with all requirements as outlined in, but not limited to, the Local Chapter Handbook."

#### Q2. Can we charge a fee for chapter meetings?

- A2. Yes. A nominal fee is allowed to cover expenses; however, a chapter is not to profit from attendance at local chapter meetings. This can be found in chapter 13, Financials, section 8, Collection of Local Chapter Member Assessment:
  - "In as much as membership with AAPC automatically entitles members to attend local chapter meetings, local chapters should not charge local membership dues. It is our desire to enable members to participate without significant cost. However, we recognize the need to cover meeting costs. Therefore, if local chapter officers feel it is necessary to assess a fee for individual events to help cover expenses such as meals, special speakers, copies, room rental, etc., then a nominal fee may be assessed. Higher fees may be charged to non-AAPC members. Local chapters will collect these additional monies with no involvement from the AAPC."

#### Q3. Can non-AAPC members attend meetings?

- A3. Yes, but there is a limit to the number of meetings they are allowed to attend. The answer is found in chapter 7, Local Chapter Meetings, section 1, Attendance at Local Chapter Meetings:
  - "Non-AAPC members may attend up to three local chapter meetings before membership with AAPC is required."

#### Q4. When will my local chapter meeting be approved?

- **A4.** If the meeting is submitted online, the answer can be found in chapter 7, Local Chapter Meetings, section 9, Application for CEUs for Chapter Meetings:
  - 9.5 "Requests for CEUs submitted online are typically approved by AAPC within 24 to 48 business hours."

# Q5. Does a seminar count as a meeting and what is the difference between a seminar and a meeting?

- A5. No. A seminar does not count as a chapter meeting. Excellent information regarding seminars and/or symposiums can be found in chapter 7, Local Chapter Meetings, section 13, Local Chapter Seminars:
  - "Local chapters may plan and conduct seminars or symposiums. The purpose of these activities is to provide extended educational opportunities for the local members beyond the regular chapter meetings, at a reasonable cost to members. The AAPC is available to provide reference support."
  - "Seminars or symposiums are presented under the direction of the local chapter."
  - "The local chapter is responsible for all seminar-related expenses. Any income generated from the seminar is retained by the local chapter for their use. Be aware, any excess profit not spent by the end of the year may be subject to tax obligation to the chapter."

### Q6. How does chapter reimbursement work?

- A6. There are two types of reimbursement for which chapters may be eligible. To receive reimbursement, the chapter must submit the Election Verification information for their current officers and the Profit and Loss Statement for the previous year. The specifics on reimbursement can be found in chapter 13, Financials, sections 11-12:
  - **11.2.2** "The Local Chapter Department will reimburse \$10 for each examinee as documented on the exam sign-in sheet."
  - 11.3 "Reimbursement checks will be made payable to the local chapter and be deposited into the local chapter bank account on a quarterly basis."
  - "The local Treasurer submits the attendance sheets to the AAPC at the end of each quarter. To ensure timely reimbursement, the reimbursement requests should be submitted within 15 days following the end of the quarter (April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, and January 15th.)"
  - "Reimbursements will be made payable to the local chapter and be deposited into the local chapter bank account on a quarterly basis."

#### Q7. Who can proctor an exam?

- A7. Information on proctoring can be found in several locations in the handbook. The best reference for this question is chapter 9, Proctor AAPC Certification Examinations, section 2, Scheduling Examination Dates:
  - 2.7 "There must be two proctors assigned to administer every examination. The first proctor must be a certified local chapter officer. The second proctor must be an AAPC member. Both proctors must be current AAPC members in good standing. If additional proctors are needed due to the number of attendees, the same requirements apply."

#### 08. Can a CPC-A° be an officer?

A8. Yes. A CPC-A° can be an officer. The president, president-elect, and education officer must hold a credential. The CPC-A° designation is a recognized credential. See chapter 4, Requirements of

Local Chapter Officers, section 1, Expectations of Chapter Officers:

- 1.3 "President, President-elect and Education Officer must hold an AAPC credential."
- "Other chapter officers are encouraged to obtain AAPC certification by the beginning of their terms in office."

## Q9. Who submits the Verification of Election form online?

- A9. It is the responsibility of the presidentelect to complete the Verification of Election form. This information can be found in chapter 5, Local Chapter Officer Responsibilities, section 4, President Elect:
  - "Complete the Election Verification information on the AAPC website within 30 days of officer election."

# Q10.When does a chapter need to submit the Profit and Loss (P&L) Statement?

- A10.It must be submitted by Jan. 15 of the following year. See chapter 2, Local Chapters, section 4, Expectations of Local Chapter Officers:
  - **4.1.8** "Submit a Profit and Loss Statement for the preceding calendar year by January 15th of the following year."

#### 011. What do we do if an officer resigns?

- A11. The steps that need to be taken in this situation are outlined in chapter 5, Local Chapter Officer Responsibilities, section 12, Change of Officers:
  - "In the event of a change of officer in the middle of the term, the current officers may appoint a new officer."
  - **12.1.1** "The resigning officer should send a resignation letter to the AAPC and to the local chapter President."
  - "The President or the Presidentelect should obtain the proper signature of the newly appointed officer and submit a Change of Officers form to the AAPC within 10 days of the acceptance."
  - "If the resigning officer is a signer on the chapter bank account, the current chapter officers must ensure the resigning officer's signature is removed and the new officer's signature is added."

#### Q12. What can a chapter do if it feels an officer is not performing the duties of the position he or she is elected to do?

- A12. You need to contact the AAPC local chapter department to make them aware of the situation and allow them to work with you and the officer. See chapter 5, Local Chapter Officer Responsibilities, section 14, Removal From an Office:
  - "A local chapter may not take action without obtaining authorization from the AAPC Local Chapter Department and the AAPCCA. Once authorization is obtained, a local chapter officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of AAPC chapter members present at a regularly scheduled meeting."

# Q13. How can a chapter spend funds appropriately?

- A13. This answer can be found in chapter 13, Financials, section 2, Accounting. There is a great deal of information in the handbook regarding the usage of chapter funds. Here is one of the guidelines:
  - "Local chapters may use chapter funds to cover expenses including, but not limited to, the payment of local event meeting rooms, speakers, handouts, refreshments, promotion of the local chapter, and other general chapter expenses."

## Q14. How can I find the Local Chapter Handbook?

A14. To find the Local Chapter Handbook, officers need to log onto the AAPC website. When signed in, select the "My AAPC" tab, and then select the "My Chapter" link. The "My Chapter" page has a menu on the left side of the screen with a link to the "Local Chapter Handbook." Now, take some time to read it.

#### **Remember:** Knowledge is power!



2.1

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Angela received her CPC in 2000 and has since been active in her local chapter. Previously, she was honored by her peers as Coder of the Year, and Networker of the Year by the Kansas City chapter.

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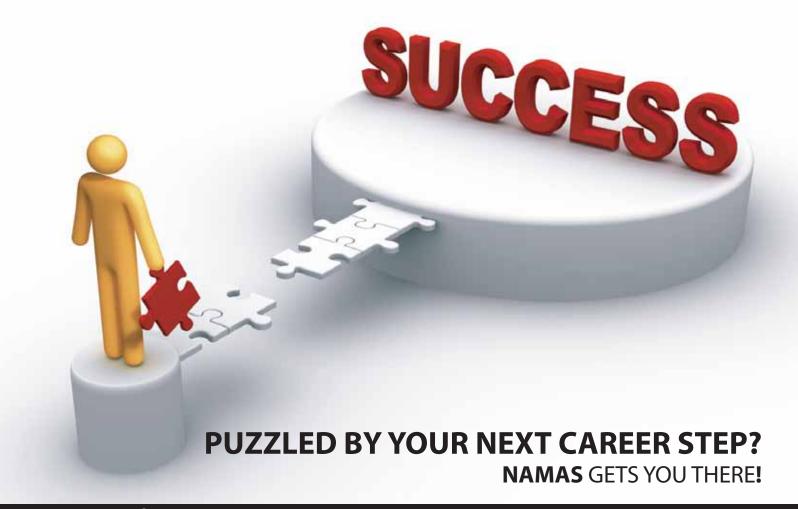


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