CPT[®] Coding for Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery

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Hand, Upper Extremity, & Microvascular Surgery
The Illinois Bone & Joint Institute
Morton Grove, IL

Session 1A, 10-11:30 AM Friday, October 26th, 2012



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Orthopaedic Hand & Upper Extremity & Microvascular Surgery

- Yale University- Orthopaedic Surgery
- The Indiana Hand Center
- The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- The American Society for Surgery of the Hand
- The Chicago Society for Surgery of the Hand
- Disclaimer...This is my own personal experience and not an official party line of the groups above.

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Coding & Hand Surgery

- Devaluation of Hand Surgery codes within Orthopaedic Surgery
- Complex variety of upper extremity procedures
- Variability in interpretation of procedures
- **◆**Case Examples

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Devaluation of Hand Surgery

- "Big Joints" pay more than "small joints"
- Spine>>Sports>Hand/Foot Ankle
- RVU of IT Hip fx (intern's procedure) is valued equal to Scaphoid fracture (complex hand referral from fellow orthopaedists)
- Important to accurately code for work performed and be reimbursed within proper Correct Coding Inititiatives

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HCFA's "Budget Neutrality"

- The total RVU's attributed to the new and existing codes in a family cannot increase.
 - "Zero Sum Game"
- The total RVU's for the specialty would be distributed among the codes (old & new)
- Attempt to maintain bundling of similar services
- Exception= new codes that describe new technology (ie arthroscopy, nerve conduits, etc)

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Hand Surgery vs. Orthopaedics

- More than just attention to X-Ray
- Soft tissue management often core problem for complications
- Soft tissues often influence function and final ROM

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Complexity of Injury

- **♦**Skin
- **◆**Tendon
- ◆Nerve
- ◆Artery
- **♦**Bone

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Complex Variety of Hand Procedures

- Dozens of different variations of common procedures:
 - Basal Joint Arthroplasty
 - LRTI, Suspension, Scope, Anchovy, etc.
 - Thumb Opponensplasty
 - Huber, Camitz, Brand-Stiles, etc.
 - Lateral Epicondylitis
 - Nirschl, Jobe, scope, etc.

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Complexity of Hand Anatomy

- ◆Nomenclature of Bones, Joints, etc
 - P1/P2/P3, MC
 - PIP/DIP/MCP,RDN,FDP,FDS,EDC
- ◆ Distinct diagnoses that should remain individualized and not bundled

Carpal Tunnel

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Hand Skeletal Anatomy

- PHALANGES
 - Proximal
 - Middle (exc. Thumb)
 - Distal
- **◆**METACARPALS
- **◆**CARPAL BONES
 - Scaphoid, Lunate, Triquetrum,
 Pisiform, Trapezium,
 Trapezoid, Capitate, Hamate

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Hand Joint Anatomy

- **◆INTERPHALANGEAL**
 - Distal = DIP
 - Proximal = PIP
- ◆ Metacarpophalangeal
 - MCP joints
- **◆**Carpometacarpal
 - CMC joints
 - TMC (Thumb)

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Hand Dissection

- **♦**Skin
- ◆ Palmar Fascia
- ◆Subcutaneous tissues
- **♦**Bursa
- ◆Pulleys/Sheaths
- ◆ Neurovascular bundles

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Hand Neural Anatomy

- Median Nerve
 - Radial & Ulnar Digital nerves to Thumb → ring ½
- Ulnar Nerve
 - Ulnar 1/2 Ring
 - Radial & Ulnar digital nerve to SF

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Hand Vascular Anatomy

- ◆Radial Artery
 - Deep palmar arch
- ◆Ulnar Artery
 - Superficial palmar arch
- ◆Common Digital Artery
 - Radial Digital Artery
 - Ulnar Digital Artery

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Hand Extensor Tendons

- Origin at lateral elbow, dorsal forearm
- ◆APL/EPB
- **◆**ECRB/ECRL
- **◆**EPL
- **◆**EDC/EIP
- **◆**EDQP
- **◆**ECU

(6 dorsal compartments)

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Hand Flexor Tendons

- Origin at medial elbow, volar forearm
- FCR
- FPL
- FDS(4)/FDP(4)
- PL
- FCU

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SF Ray Resection

- Caught small finger on plant hook while trying to catch after hanging Xmas tree
- Degloved small finger distal to MCP
- Avulsion FDP tendon with muscle belly
- 26910 = ray resection

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Serial Wound Management

- Maintain barrier
- Prevent dessication
- Promote growth of granulation tissue
- NS Wet → Dry QID
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy
- Wound VAC q2-3d

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Interpretation of What's Done

- Basilar Joint Arthroplasty
 - Removal of carpal bone (trapezium)
 - Secure/suspend thumb metacarpal
 - Advance EPB tendon/ check MCP stability
 - ?tendon transfer
 - ?arthroscope
 - · ?carpectomy

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Interpretation of What's Done

- The Operating Surgeon themselves are in the BEST position to know what is done and what is not done
- The operative report may or may not reflect what has actually been done
- The surgeon MUST play an active role in interpreting what has been done and applying the proper codes to reflect this
 - Eg. "train vs hand" on paper op note, versus...

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Case Examples

- Complex Distal Radius Fracture
- Submuscular Ulnar Nerve (SMUNT)
- Basilar Joint Arthroplasty
- Tablesaw incomplete multidigit amputations
- Thumb replantation
- Scapholunate reconstruction

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Complex Distal Radius Fracture

- Intra-articular "dusted" distal radius fracture with 3 hours operative time much different than a "20 minute ex-fix"- old system didn't differentiate
- 25620 = ORIF
- 20690 = Ex-fix, uniplanar
- 29847 = AARIF (Arthroscopic-assisted reduction & internal fixation)

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Distal Radius

- ◆25606= CRPP
- ◆25607= ORIF Extra-articular fx
- ◆25608= ORIF 2 frag. articular fx
- ◆25609= ORIF 3+ frag. artic. Fx
- ◆25650= closed tx ulnar styloid fx
 - Only used alone, not with above

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Distal Radius/Ulna

- 25650= for closed treatment of <u>isolated</u> ulnar styloid fx
- 25651= CRPP ulnar styloid
- 25652= ORIF ulnar styloid
- 20690= Application of Uniplanar External fixator (in addition to ORIF)

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Other newer CPT codes

- ◆25109= excision of tendon in forearm, flexor or extensor
- ◆24910= nerve repair with conduit
- ♦64911= neurorrhaphy w/veingraft
- ♦69990 is inclusive to above nerve repairs, not allowable

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Other newer CPT codes

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Other newer CPT codes

- 20527= Dupuytren's injection of Collagenase into a cord
- 26341= next –day manipulation of finger to straighten and disrupt cord

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Other newer CPT codes

- ◆11040 & 11041 have been deleted
- ◆11042 = debridement of skin & SQ tissue

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External Fixation

- External Fixation has been removed from all fracture treatment codes
- "with or without internal fixation" is corrected now
- CPT 20690
- CPT 20692
- Subsequently the RVU's for fracture treatment codes have been decreased

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Epicondylitis

- CPT 24357 –
 percutaneous elbow
 tenotomy, med. Or
 lateral
- CPT 24358 tenotomy elbow, debride soft tissue +/- bone
- CPT 24359 tenotomy elbow, lateral or medial, debridement soft tissue or bone, with tendon repair or reattachment

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Submuscular Ulnar Nerve Transposition (SMUNT)

- 64718 = Ulnar neurolysis at elbow
- 24305 = Z-lengthen flexor-pronator mass
- Anterior Ulnar Nerve Transposition
- Lengthening during repair to minimize risk of iatrogenic compression of nerve

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Tablesaw/Multidigit Revasc.

- 11012 = I&D Open fx's
- 35207 = digital artery repair
- 64831 = digital nerve repair
- 26356 = flexor tenorrhaphy- Zone 2
- 26418 = extensor tenorrhaphy
- Pale dysvascular fingers with open fractures and tendon injuries, incomplete amputation

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4yr old vs. Meatgrinder

- Amputation of IF/MF/RF
- Open carpal fx's
- Median nerve injury
- Severe mangling of child's hand with central loss extending into palm

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Thanksgiving Pie Mixer

- Fingers caught in mixer blades
- Extensor tendon lacs
- Phalangeal fx
- Transient ischemia-dysvascular

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SLIO Recon for Wrist Instability

- **◆**SLIO dissociation
- **◆**Ligament repair
- ◆ Dorsal capsulodesis
- ◆25320 = open capsulorrhaphy/ reconstruction for carpal instability

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Trans-Scaphoid Perilunate Fracture/Dislocation

- ORIF Trans –scapho Perilunate = 25685
- Dorsal Capsulodesis = 25320
- PIN Denervation = 64772

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Hand Surgery

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 - Integumentary
 - Vascular
 - Neurological

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Replantation Principles

- Thumb essential
- Single digit replant- a relative contraindication
- Secondary surgeries
- Intensive monitoring/ transfusion/rehabilitation
- Soft tissue coverage
- Much more stringent than past experiences

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Case Quiz

- I&D Grade 3 open fx
- **ORIF Distal Radius**
- ORIF DRUJ/TFCC
- Volar fasiotomy/ CTR
- Brachioradialis -> FPL
- FDS Repair → IF/MF
- Uniplanar Ex-fix
- Wound Vac applic.

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- 11012
- 25526
 - (ORIF Galeazzi)
- 25023
- 26485
- 25260
- 20690
- 97579

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Near Amp/ Degloving

- Plastic Surgery Consult for Soft tissue coverage as area too large for groin flap/graft donor.
- Patient has 3 kids and redundant abdominal skin for donor site with minimal donor site morbidity, in fact, donor site benefit
- ABDOMINOPLASTY→ FTSG

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THANK YOU

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