Coding Changes for Intraoperative Neurophysiology Monitoring (IONM)

Significant changes have occurred to nerve monitoring coding and policy for 2013. Primarily, CPT code 95920 has been deleted and replaced with the following two new codes:

- 95940 Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring in the operating room, one on one monitoring requiring personal attendance, each 15 minutes
- 95941 Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring, from outside the operating room (remote or nearby) or for monitoring of more than one case while in the operating room, per hour

In the 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, however, CMS expressed concern that the description and notes for 95941 allow for simultaneous monitoring of multiple patients by a single provider. To prevent this possibility, Medicare will not cover 95941 and has instead created an additional new code:

- G0453 Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring, from outside the operating room (remote or nearby), per patient, (attention directed exclusively to one patient) each 15 minutes

Former code 95920 was reported per hour of service, whereas new codes 95940 and G0453 are reported per 15 minutes. Hence, the new RVUs and payment rates have also been adjusted compared to 95920 to account for the changes in reported units of the new codes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>RVUs</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95940</td>
<td>Monitoring in the O.R.</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>$31.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G0453</td>
<td>Remote monitoring</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>$26.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Place of Service Changes

As of April 1, 2013, Medicare requires the POS code to match the location of the patient rather than the location of the provider. In some cases a remote monitor may not know if a patient is in inpatient or outpatient status. In this circumstance, CMS notes that “it is more important that the physician/practitioner report the POS consistent with the patient's general inpatient or outpatient hospital status than the precise inpatient/ outpatient POS code (in order to trigger the facility payment rate under the PFS).” Hence, rather than reporting the Office POS code 11, common POS codes in these circumstances will be 21 (Inpatient Hospital) or 22 (Outpatient Hospital).

**CMS Transmittal 2613, December 14, 2012**
Other Payers

As of February 2013, few commercial insurance plans have updated their coverage policies for IONM to clarify rules under the new codes. However, some providers have reported anecdotally that commercial payers are changing claims system edits to follow Medicare guidelines. It is recommended that providers of IONM contact their payers to clarify if new rules may apply to their practice guidelines and billing requirements.

Questions? Contact Medtronic Spinal and Biologics’ Reimbursement Support Center.

Phone: 866-743-1220
Internet: www.medtronicspinal.com/spineline

www.medtronic.com

Medtronic
Spinal and Biologics Business
Worldwide Headquarters
2600 Sofamor Danek Drive
Memphis, TN 38132
1800 Pyramid Place
Memphis, TN 38132
(900) 396-3133
(800)876-3133
Customer Service: (800) 933-2635
For more information visit
www.myspinetools.com

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