

May 2017

Keeping the ASA CROSSWALK Up To Date

Plato said, “Everything Changes and Nothing Remains Still.” As with so much of his writings, it is applicable to many things – even anesthesia coding. Medical practice is not static. New procedures, technology and standards of care continuously develop over time. ICD and CPT codes are subject to ongoing review and updates - and so is the ASA CROSSWALK®

The transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS is now behind us and the freeze that held back updates to the ICD-10-CM/PCS code sets has lifted. (As a reminder, healthcare professionals use ICD-10-CM codes to describe the patient condition or diagnosis that made their services necessary.) Now that we are back to business as usual in ICD coding, each year will bring changes to ICD codes. There may also be changes to the guidelines for use as they appear in the code book and at:

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/10cmguidelines_2017_final.pdf. The ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance committee maintains these code sets and considers proposals to create, change or delete ICD-10 codes.

CPT® codes describe medical procedures and services. The CPT code set was developed by the American Medical Association (AMA). The AMA through the CPT Editorial Panel works to ensure that CPT codes are updated as needed to reflect current practice. Like diagnosis codes, each year there are changes to both the codes themselves and to the instructions on how to report them properly.

The ASA CROSSWALK also requires ongoing review and revisions – just as ICD and CPT do. The CROSSWALK provides recommendations as to which anesthesia code may most accurately describe the anesthesia care associated with a specific service or procedure. The actual selection of the code included on a claim for services belongs to the healthcare professional providing the care. New CPT codes must be carefully reviewed and added to the CROSSWALK. Revisions to existing CPT codes must be thoroughly analyzed to determine whether the change impacts the choice of anesthesia code. Deleted codes must be removed from the CROSSWALK. Coding notes/comments must also be reviewed and updated as indicated.

Any interested party can submit a proposal to the ICD Coordination and Maintenance Committee or to the CPT Editorial Panel - and any interested party can submit a suggestion to the CROSSWALK Committee. The CROSSWALK Committee cannot revise a procedure code or an anesthesia code. That authority resides with the CPT Editorial Panel.

Suggestions for changes or revisions to the next edition of the ASA CROSSWALK must be received by June 1 of each year. All suggestions are welcome, and all are considered by the

Timely Topics

PAYMENT AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

committee. This feedback keeps the CROSSWALK current and relevant. However, just like the ICD and CPT processes, not all proposed changes will be adopted. The CROSSWALK's basic premise is to promote accurate coding consistent with ASA, AMA and CMS standards.

Each edition of the CROSSWALK includes a form to be used to submit a suggestion. A copy is attached to this Timely Topic. If you have a suggestion for CROSSWALK Committee consideration, please send us all of the requested information. If you have any additional background information that helps demonstrate your point, please feel free to include it but make sure it does not include any protected health information (PHI) or otherwise potentially violate a HIPAA requirement.

If you have any feedback, please send it to us soon so we can consider it for possible inclusion in the 2018 edition.

Proposed Change or Addition for 2018 CROSSWALK

The effectiveness of the ASA CROSSWALK® document is dependent upon regular revisions reflecting changes in anesthesia practice. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the timely suggestions of practicing anesthesiologists and coding professionals. Accordingly, the CROSSWALK Editor, the CROSSWALK Editorial Panel and the Committee on Economics welcome correspondence, inquiries and suggestions concerning CROSSWALK content. All suggestions should include the procedure code, the associated anesthesia code, your suggested change and the rationale supporting your proposal.

Please complete this form and send it to:

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Name:

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E-mail:

Procedure Code:

Anesthesia Code:

Suggested Change:

Rationale:

Additional Comments:

The CROSSWALK is revised annually. The CROSSWALK Editor and Editorial Panel will review all suggestions received prior to June 1, 2017 for possible inclusion in the 2018 edition.