

HOGAN & HARTSON
L.L.P.

LAURA E. LOEB
PARTNER
(202) 637-5760
LELOEB@HHLAW.COM

September 19, 2002

Joseph B. Jacobs, M.D.
New York University Medical Center
530 First Avenue, Suite 3C
New York, NY 10016

Re: Correct Coding Initiative Edits for CPT Codes 30130 and 30140

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

You requested a description of the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits for CPT codes 30130 (excision turbinate, partial or complete, any method) and 30140 (submucous resection turbinate, partial or complete, any method). This letter will explain how the CCI system works, what codes may and may not be billed with 30130 and 30140, and when modifiers may be used to allow billing for multiple codes at the same time.

The CCI is a list produced by AdminaStar Federal, a Medicare contractor, for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Medicare subcontractors. The list indicates which pairings of CPT codes cannot be billed at the same time to a Medicare payer when they are furnished for the same patient on the same day. Many commercial payers also use these CCI edits.

The pairings in the CCI involve comprehensive and component codes. A comprehensive code describes a service that includes other component codes. A component code may be essentially the same as the comprehensive code or may be performed on the same area but with less complexity. Component codes also include generic services, such as prepping a skin area, administering local anesthesia by the physician, or cleaning a wound, that are required to perform the comprehensive code procedure. For example, 30110 (excision, nasal polyps) is a component code of 30130 because 30110 is a less complex procedure that is

performed in the same area as 30130. The attached tables list the component and comprehensive codes for 30130 and 30140.

If a provider bills for a component code and a comprehensive code for the same patient on the same day, Medicare will deny the claim. Providers who perform both comprehensive and component services may bill only for the comprehensive code.

The CCI may also prohibit billing for a pair of codes that are mutually exclusive. If CMS has determined that a physician in a single patient encounter cannot reasonably perform two procedures, the procedures are mutually exclusive. For example, code 30620 (septal or other intranasal dermatoplasty) is mutually exclusive with 30140. When two mutually exclusive codes are billed at the same time for the same patient, Medicare will pay only the code with the lower reimbursement value.

Some pairs of codes may never be billed together, while other pairings may be billed together and reimbursed when a modifier is used. The attached tables indicates whether a modifier can be used for each pair of codes.

Significantly, if a pairing of codes does not appear on the CCI list, then any Medicare payer should pay for that combination of codes separately. For example, as the attached tables demonstrate, any Medicare payer should pay separately for FESS procedures when billed with 30130 or 30140. If a Medicare payer is not paying separately for these codes, your members should send a letter to the payer similar to the one attached. Not all non-Medicare payers follow the CCI edits; however, many do. Therefore, it might also be worthwhile for ARS members to send a letter similar to the one attached to even a non-Medicare payer.

Finally, the CCI notes when an edit was added to or removed from the system. Although the CCI is updated at least several times per year, some payers may be behind in revising their payment software. A payer who uses an outdated version of the CCI inappropriately may deny claims that should be paid. A Medicare payer certainly should be informed by a physician that the payer is not abiding by the recent CCI edits.

I hope this letter answers you questions about the CCI. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura E. Loeb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a distinct "E".

Laura E. Loeb

Enclosures

The following codes are components of 30130:

Code	Modifier	Effective Date	Termination Date
30110	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30115	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30200	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
69990	No modifier allowed; will not bypass edit	6/5/2000	
92502	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	9/5/2000	

Code 30130 is a component of the following codes:

Code	Modifier	Effective Date	Termination Date
30140	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30150	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30160	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30400	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30410	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30420	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	

The following codes are components of 30140:

Code	Modifier	Effective Date	Termination Date
30110	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30115	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30130	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30200	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
69990	No modifier allowed; will not bypass edit	6/5/2000	
92502	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	9/5/2000	
21335		1/1/1996	1/1/1996
61795		9/5/2000	9/5/2000

Code 30140 is a component of the following codes:

Code	Modifier	Effective Date	Termination Date
21335	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30150	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	
30160	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	

The following code is mutually exclusive with 30140:

Code	Modifier	Effective Date	Termination Date
30620	Modifier is allowed, will bypass edit	1/1/1996	

