

# Coding and Reimbursement Digest

May 2024

## Health Policy and Economics

[A claims-based method for identification and characterization of practicing IRs](#)

### RUC Survey Launch

The RVS Update Committee (RUC) surveys will be launched in June of 2024 to SIR members who were randomly selected to participate in the survey. The RUC is a unique multispecialty committee dedicated to describing the resources required to provide physician services, which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) considers in developing Relative Value Units (RVUs). Although the RUC provides recommendations, CMS makes all final decisions about what Medicare payments will be.

[Understanding the RUC Survey Instrument](#)

### Aetna Vertebral augmentation

On May 21, in collaboration with Multisociety Pain Workgroup (MPW), SIR sent a letter to Aetna in response to their decision not to amend the policy regarding percutaneous vertebral augmentation (PVA) for osteoporotic vertebral compression. The medical necessity of the policy is limiting surgical procedures to fractures over six weeks old, and these requirements should be revised/eliminated as they can potentially negatively impact patient outcomes and providers' ability to deliver evidence-based, appropriate spinal care to all patients. [SIR letter to Aetna](#)

### Victory in Washington State

Washington State voted to approve spinal cord stimulation (SCS) with conditions for failed back surgery, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, and nonsurgical back pain. SIR, in collaboration with the Multisociety Pain Workgroup (MPW), has sent multiple letters to the Washington (WA) State Health Care Authority in the past three years, most recently on May 13, 2024, asking that both evidence and clinical expertise be a part of their policy determination for spinal cord stimulation (SCS). This would establish a reasonable coverage policy to eliminate inappropriate utilization and ensure appropriate patient access to SCS. WA State Health Care Authority provides policies that cover workers' compensation, Medicaid, and State Employees. As we celebrate the win for positive coverage for SCS, we will continue our efforts as several elements of the policy poorly align with the standard of care for SCS therapy for the proposed covered conditions. [Letter to WS HCA for SCS](#)

### Response needed by June 30: AMA Physician Practice Information Survey

The American Medical Association (AMA) Physician Practice Information (PPI) Survey is nearing completion. It is critical that interventional radiologists participate in this survey. The data returned on the survey will ensure proper Medicare reimbursement for many years. Mathematica has reissued the survey using new contact information. The email's subject line will be "American Medical Association requests your input on physician practice expense and patient care hours." Invitations and reminders about the PPI survey, sent to financial experts within practices and will come from [ppisurvey@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:ppisurvey@mathematica-mpr.com). If you have any questions or if you would like to speak to someone about this survey, please contact Mathematica at [ppisurvey@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:ppisurvey@mathematica-mpr.com), or via phone at (833) 770-1032.



#### IR books and resources

- [IR Coding Update book and charge sheets](#)
- [2024 Navigator® Interventional Radiology Procedures](#)
- [2024 Navigator® Evaluation and Management Services for Radiology](#)
- [IR Common Missed Coding Revenue](#)

#### IR billing and coding courses

- [2023 SIR Revenue Cycle Management course](#)
- [2023 Coding Update On-demand](#)

#### IR Quarterly

- [Winter 2024 CPT coding changes](#)
- [Spring 2024 intraprocedural computed tomography](#)

#### SIR members, we are here to help

[Submit your coding question to our experts.](#)  
[Submit your denied IR procedure.](#)