Coding and Reimbursement Digest
April 2024

Health Policy and Economics

Powering down interventional imaging system saves tens of thousands in electricity cost
Practice change boost efficiency for IR procedures handled outside the OR
New ground-breaking clinical trial exploring treatments for pelvic venous disorders

Comment Letters (Members Only- log into Sirweb)
UPMC policy on intravascular ultrasound (IVUS)
WA State Healthcare Authority Vertebroplasty, Kyphoplasty and Sacroplasty
Expanding access to Closed-loop Spinal Cord Stimulation

Important Update: 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 re-issued 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 will come from 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, or via phone at 1-833-770-1032.

SIR issues FY 2025 IPPS proposed rule summary
On April 10, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the fiscal year 2025 proposed rule for the Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS). For FY 2025, which begins Oct. 1, 2024, CMS proposes to increase payment rates for hospitals by approximately 2.6% percent if they have successfully participated in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program and are meaningful electronic health record users. SIR FY 2025 IPPS Proposed Rule Summary.

New carrier advocacy coverage letters
The carrier advocacy team has updated the literature for the prostate artery embolization (PAE) and pulmonary cryoablation letters. These are now published in the IR Business Center. They are currently working on letters for genicular artery embolization (GAE) for the treatment of osteoarthritis, radiofrequency ablation (RFA) for the treatment of benign thyroid nodules, and yttrium-90 (Y-90) therapy for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma that will help address urgent carrier advocacy issues by incorporating the literature and coverage gaps within specific policies.

SIR attended the AMA Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC)
SIR’s RUC Adviser Minhaj Khaja, MD; RUC Alternate Adviser Robert Kennedy, MD; RUC Member Cane Hoffman, MD; and SIR staff attended the AMA RUC meeting on April 24–27, with collaborating societies. SIR presented one code set to the RUC and seven action plans to the Relativity Assessment Workgroup (RAW). RUC meetings are confidential. CMS will address these value recommendations in the 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule. At that time, all RUC recommendations, minutes and votes are publicly available online.