Health Policy and Economics

Interventional radiology among 4 specialties with the greatest growth in claims volume since 2018

Public Awareness of Interventional Radiology: Population-Based Analysis of the Current State

HTI-1 proposed rule comments

On June 20, 2023, SIR joined forces with the Alliance of Specialty Medicine in a comment letter regarding the ONC’s HTI-1 proposed rule that seeks to implement provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act and make updates to the ONC health IT certification program to better support the access, exchange, and use of electronic health information among healthcare stakeholders. However, we are concerned that the rule does not address the certification criteria needed to support electronic prior authorization requirements recently proposed by CMS. Without such a process in place, we are concerned that impacted payers will waste resources building non-uniform digitized processes that do not easily integrate with EHRs. In turn, this could result in even more complex and burdensome prior authorization processes than exist today and payers passing on unnecessary implementation costs to clinicians and patients.

SIR Launches RUC Surveys for September 2023 Meeting

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) will circulate an American Medical Association/Relative Value Scale Update Committee (AMA/RUC) survey for MRI-monitored transurethral ultrasound ablation prostate, ultrasound elastography, CT guidance needle placement, and telehealth office visits. The data acquired through the survey process will be aggregated and analyzed to build value-based recommendations presented at the September 2023 meeting. If you receive the survey, please complete it as soon as possible.

Medicare Part B modifier JZ/JW

Beginning July 1, 2023, a JZ modifier is required on all claims that bill for drugs separately payable under Part B when there’s no discarded amount from single-dose containers or single-use packages. Claims that bill for separately payable drugs under Part B from single-dose containers that don’t report the JW or JZ modifier on or after July 1, 2023, may be subject to audits. Claim editing starts on October 2, 2023, when JW or JZ modifiers aren’t used correctly. Note: that reporting of modifiers JW and JZ are NOT required for administered medications already included (described) in existing HPCS codes, only for separately payable medication used from single-use containers.

MLN Matters CR 13056
Billing and Coding: JW and JZ Modifier Billing Guidelines
CMS has also published a FAQ on the use of JW and JZ

National AMA study to document changes in physician practice expense

The American Medical Association (AMA) is undertaking a new national study, supported by 173 healthcare organizations, to collect representative data on physician practice expenses. If you are among the randomly selected recipients, SIR strongly encourages you to participate to ensure IR data is well-represented. Read more

SIR members, we are here to help.

Ask a coding question.
Submit a pre-auth or claim denial.

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