

THE CODING EDUCATOR

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Proper Use of Modifier 59

As some of you know, I review hundreds of EM, Radiology, Pathology and Surgery notes every week - it's enough to make ya want to drink.

Lately I've been seeing some use of modifier 59 that is incorrect. It appears that some providers are finding out that adding a modifier 59 to a claim will allow that line item to be paid - and that's not why we use the modifier 59.

The OIG has published some recent findings via Medlearn that I thought might help if you don't totally understand when you should and should not use modifier 59.

"Encoderpro.com" and the "AAPC Coder software" include these NCCI

edits and the Procedure to Procedure (PTP) edits and will allow you to determine

if the modifier 59 requires a separate part of the body, separate setting or separate provider in order to bill two or more services together.

If you can't afford a software program and still need more information on the NCCI edits and the PTP edits for providers, here's the link to the "free" hard copy version of the PTP edits - click on the link below:

[Link to NCCI / PTP edits from CMS](#)

Again, overuse of modifier 59 can signal as red flags as over-utilizing modifier 25 or 57.

One last tip - if you are using the 59 modifier just to get paid, chances are - you're using it incorrectly.

Here's the link to the OIG information:

[OIG Information on Modifier 59](#)

I'm scheduling chart reviews for January and February 2018 right now - just send me an email or give me a call and we can get started on helping you convert your work into maximum compliant revenue.

Steve



CPC Classes

Don't forget to register for our Albany, GA CPC course in October - Albany CPC Class - October 2017

Peace Out,
Steve Adams



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