

LW Consulting, Inc.

CodingAlert

Coding & Audit Pitfalls:
Best Practices to Avoid Compliance Issues

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| DATES OF SERVICE | PROCEDURE CODE | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 05/21/10-05/21/10 | 82272 | PU |
| 05/21/10-05/21/10 | 94010 | PULMO |
| 05/21/10-05/21/10 | 94375 | CARDIOVASCULAR SE |
| 05/21/10-05/21/10 | 93000 | VENIPUNCTURE |
| 05/21/10-05/21/10 | 36410 | |

New Codes for Virtual Visits and Consults

Telemedicine utilized in the form of remote patient monitoring may support improvement in patient health in an efficient way. In the 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) concurred with the stakeholder support for technological advancement of virtual communication.

CMS has officially expanded telemedicine services by opening Medicare reimbursement to cover virtual/non-face-to-face services provided by physician practices. CMS will reimburse for these new Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) codes.

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CPT 99453 (Remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s), e.g., weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow rate):

- Initial encounter
- Set-up and patient education on use of equipment

CPT 99454 (Remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s), e.g., weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow rate):

- Initial encounter
- Monitoring device(s) supply with daily recording(s) or programmed alert(s) transmission
- Applicable per each 30-day increment

CPT 99457 (Remote physiologic monitoring treatment management services):

- 20 minutes or more of clinical staff/physician/other qualified healthcare professional
- Calculation of total time spent within a calendar month
- Requires interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the month

Although CMS has not yet addressed public queries regarding types of technology that will qualify for reimbursement for RPM, CMS has stated there will be future guidance to “help inform practitioners and stakeholders on these issues.”

Sources:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-11-23/pdf/2018-24170.pdf>

To minimize costly medical billing and coding errors, it’s important to stay up to date on the requirements. LW Consulting, Inc, can assist you with coding education, medical record documentation and/or compliance auditing.

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To inquire about coding education, medical record documentation or compliance auditing, contact Harriett Wall by calling 207-613-2992, or email HWall@LW-Consult.com.

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