



Welcome!

Greetings and welcome to both new and old subscribers. We hope your summer months

have been both refreshing and productive.

It's that time of year when hot weather is on its way out and kids are getting ready to resume their studies. We hope that all of you have had the opportunity to take a break from your busy schedules and do the things you love.

In this issue, we will look at an MDM scenario through E&M Coder, discuss the Renewal Reports and Summary functions of CEUManager, and review our latest trip to the regional conference held by AAPC in Indianapolis this last August.

As always, our goal is to provide you with the tools and tips you need to make your job easier. Enjoy!

Shirley Moy

President

Spring Management Systems, Inc.

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Professional Medical Coders

“Employment is expected to grow much faster than average and job prospects should be very good - technicians with a strong background in medical coding will be in particularly high demand.”

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Outlook Handbook
Oct 25, 2006

Evaluation and Management Documentation Guidelines for Physician Services Part 3-Medical Decision Making

Presented by

Deborah Grider

CPC-EMS, CPC-H, CPC-P, CCS-P

“Medical Decision Making for Physician Services” represents one of several courses currently offered through www.CEUManager.com and as the title reads, this is the third part in a series presented by Deborah Grider. The course explains the different levels of decision making and includes several examples in order to put into practice the material covered.

Medical decision making is an important aspect of a patient's experience with a physician. It is the step where the physician attempts to diagnose the problem and select an appropriate treatment. Along with the diagnosis, decision making can take on four forms of risk: *Straightforward, Low, Moderate, High*. Each level is compiled of different criteria and is unique in its own manner.

In the online presentation, Ms. Grider provides several examples for calculating the correct MDM level. In this article we will explore one specific example using our E&M Coder software product to illustrate the appropriate MDM level calculation.

For our example, we are using the assessment of a patient who suffers from hypertension, benign uncontrolled, bilateral knee pain. The patient is given prescriptions and advised to come back a week later for an EKG. The patient is also told to exercise and follow a low fat diet plan and to return in one month. However, the patient is non-compliant.

This patient is suffering from HTN, benign uncontrolled, bilateral knee pain and was given the management options of prescribed drug management which is moderate risk. The amount of complexity data to be reviewed involves an EKG planned for the following week, and the risk involves two problems: (1) newly diagnosed and (1) chronic mildly exacerbating problem. Now let's take this example to E&M Coder to illustrate the calculation of an appropriate MDM level.

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MDM For Physician Services *continued*

After entering the patient's information, we begin by looking at various key pieces of the diagnosis under the "Medical Decision" tab. First, the one newly diagnosed ailment receives a mark under the "Previously Un-Diagnosed" section. In the screenshot below, this has been marked as **Needs additional assessment**. The HTN is considered "Previously Diagnosed" and is worsening which calls for a mark under **Worsening**. Under the "Data to be Previewed" section, **Radiology test** is selected since the patient was advised to come back a week later for an EKG.

In conclusion, use caution when selecting the level of service and make sure documentation of the assessment and the plan are complete in order to determine the appropriate level of decision making.

For more information about our E/M online courses, we invite you to evaluate our demo at www.CEUManager.com/ceucourses.php

Presented by highly respected certified professional coders, our E/M series is sure to enhance your understanding of Evaluation and Management coding.

For more information on our E&M Coder software and to download your 30-day free trial, visit us at www.EMCoder.com

The next screenshot (right) shows the "Risk Decision" tab with appropriate markings. Under "Chronic Illness", **Mild progression** is marked because the condition is mildly exacerbating. Under the "Acute Onset Illness or Injury", the injury is considered **Complicated** due to the need for urgent care. Under the "Diagnostic Procedures" the **EKG/EEG** option is marked again since the patient was advised to come back a week later for an EKG. Finally, since the physician gave the patient two prescriptions, **Prescription drug management** is selected under "Management Options".

The result for this example is a level of 'Moderate Complexity' as shown in blue on the bottom of the screenshot.



CEUManager

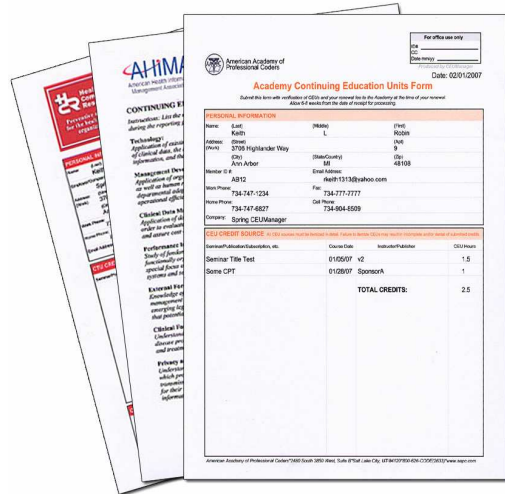
Your Certification Assistant

Using CEUManager: A Simple Way to Create Renewal Reports and Summaries

Is it almost time to gather your information and fill out your certification renewal report? Do you hate sorting through your CEU certificates and course information to figure out what needs to be written into your report form? Let CEUManager do it for you! CEUManager offers free creation of AAPC, AHIMA, PMCC, and HCR renewal reports with a click of your mouse.

Just log in to CEUManager.com and look for the tab that reads **Reports**. Once there, select the desired date range for your renewal report and click on the appropriate organization. It's that easy! No more writing! The renewal report will come up ready for print, with all your information automatically added. In addition, you can also print out your AHIMA Worksheets and Summary Notes from the Reports tab.

Free or low-cost CEUs are another way to make your life easier and earn credits that count towards your required CEU total. The AAPC provides a variety of ways to earn free or low-cost CEUs ranging from free self-tests and attending chapter meetings, to creating an abstract of articles



found in the members-only *Coding Edge Magazine*.

For a more detailed list of creative ways to earn free or low-cost CEUs, visit the AAPC suggestion page at:

www.aapc.com/education/ceu-policy.aspx#FREECEU

Once you've earned a CEU, tracking your credits is easy using CEUManager. After you've logged in, go to the **Add** tab and fill in the appropriate CEU information. Once your credit information has been submitted you can then add a summary using CEUManager's notes section. From the **View and Edit** tab, click on the little notebook next to the appropriate course and a screen will pop up giving you ample space for your personalized summary. Once your summary notes are entered, you can print them at any time.

CEUManager is devoted to making your renewal process as easy as possible, and we will continue to add features that help to make your life a little simpler!

www.CEUManager.com

AAPC
 Renewal Date: **June 01, 2008**
 Certification(s): **CPC-Certified Professional Coder**

CEU Totals	
Required:	36
Earned:	33
Needed:	3

★ To add a new CEU, enter all fields and click **Submit**.

Add Course Information:

Date: Aug / 09 / 2007

Credit Type: Please Select...

Catalog #: (For Chapter Meetings only)

Sponsor (or Chapter): Organization

Sponsor ID (or Chapter ID):

Program Title: Cheap CEUs

Location (City and State): Springfield

Instructor: Joe Blank

Number of CE Credits:

AAPC	PMCC	AHIMA	HCR	Org1	Org2	Org3	Org4
1							

Verification Type: Summary

Document in Hand?: Yes

Hours: 1 Minutes: 0

AHIMA HIM Domain: Please Select...

Edit	Notes	Upload		AAPC
			08/07/07	Coding Edge Magazine
				Subscriptions Credits: 1
			04/26/07	Inservice Program
				Inservice Credits: 2
			04/25/07	CNRS For Cardio Cap and Interventions
				Audio Conference Credits: 1.5
			01/12/07	new
				TOTAL EARNED: 33

Regional Conference - Indianapolis 2007

We would first like to thank everyone that attended the AAPC Indianapolis Regional Conference for showing their support. The conference was held on August 2nd - 4th at the Westin Indianapolis. The conference was a success with over 445 attendees. Along with eight other vendors, Spring Management Systems was able to meet with AAPC members and answer questions about our E&M Coder software and our free online CEU tracking service, CEUManager.

The first day started with a Networking Welcome Reception along with a coding game led by Deborah Grider where contestants could earn AAPC bucks for AAPC merchandise. Accompanying the festivities were delicious desserts from the hotel, whose food proved to be delightful during the whole event.

During the conference, over 20 presentations were given by many professionals in the industry. Steven Levinson, MD, presented *Practical E/M*, and Jill Young gave us *Coding in your Sleep*, a discussion on how sleep disorders have become a new category with over 40 codes. Other interesting presentations included *Modifiers for Physician Services - Getting Paid Right the First Time* by Deborah Grider, *Handling Medicare Appeals* by Barbara Cobuzzi, as well as information on the ICD-9-CM coding changes effective October 1st 2007.

A special thanks to the people who were able to come by our booth and pick up a 30-day, fully-functional, free trial of E&M Coder 9.0 and hear about the benefits of using www.CEUManager.com. We hope this conference was as valuable for you as it was for us. Thanks again!



Smile!

A Nurse Practitioner was examining his patient who happened to be hard of hearing. He put his stethoscope to her chest and said, "Big breathes." The woman replied, "Yes, they used to be bigger!"

Doctor: You're in good health. You'll live to be 80.

Patient: But, doctor, I am 80 right now.

Doctor: See, what did I tell you.

SNAPSHOTS by Jason Love



"Well, it's a good thing you switched cigarettes, Bob...You only have *cancer light*."



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E&MCoder v9

To download a fully functional, 30-day trial of our E&MCoder software, visit us at www.EMCoder.com and click on the Download E&M Coder button on the left side of your screen.

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- Complete 2007 Evaluation and Management Codes
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- HIPAA Compliant Reporting
- Bell-curve Comparison Graphs by Specialty
- Audit Report highlighting Visits without a Chief Complaint

And much more...

Call us at 800-585-6337 to order your upgrade today!