

Managing Coding & Reimbursement Challenges in Neurosurgery

2010

San Diego

Austin

Philadelphia
(AANS Annual Meeting)

New York City

Chicago

Designed for
neurosurgeons
and their
reimbursement
teams!!



American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons

and the American Association of Neurosurgeons

“With all the changes taking place in neurosurgical coding and reimbursement, the AANS coding course should continually be on the radar screen of all neurosurgeons to learn what’s new and how best to improve their practices.”

— James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, AANS President-Elect

Dear Colleague:

We are continuing our long tradition of providing high quality, reliable and effective practice management courses, and are pleased to announce our 2010 AANS *Managing Coding and Reimbursement Challenges in Neurosurgery* courses. In partnership with KarenZupko and Associates, Inc., this combination of consultant and physician faculty continues to be unparalleled in course instruction! Many of our AANS physician faculty are CPT advisors and leaders on the AMA RUC Committee and AMA CPT Editorial Panel. These key figures in the development, revision, and valuation of CPT codes can add insight into helping you understand our current coding conventions along with being a conduit for your concerns and comments.

AANS coding and reimbursement courses help neurosurgical practices optimize overall reimbursement and reduce claims denials. From bundled services, modifiers, and global service periods to changes in federal and state legislation, keeping up to date with the 2010 coding changes is crucial to maximizing your bottom line while remaining compliant with the ever changing regulations. Well-trained coders can easily cover their salary and more by learning the nuances and correct ways to code and appeal!

As director of the AANS coding courses and as chair of the AANS Education and Practice Management Committee, we can assure you that you will be provided with the most up-to-date information and invaluable tips and tools to make your job easier and to improve your bottom line.

You won't want to miss this course in 2010!



Joseph S. Cheng, MD, MS
Vanderbilt University
Director, AANS Coding Program



Michael Oh, MD
Allegheny General Hospital
Chair, AANS Education and Practice Management Committee



2010 AANS Coding Course Faculty

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Winston Salem, North Carolina

As any physician will attest, no one wants to leave money on the table or be accused of submitting incorrect claims. And yet every year, as neurosurgical practices are faced with the daunting task of understanding the newest claims coding and billing rules, many fail to educate themselves on the new guidelines. The result: lower revenue potential, increased denials, and greater operating/administrative costs for the practice.

To take the guesswork out of this complex rule system, we present coding courses geared for the entire reimbursement team. From Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) billing and Medicare considerations, to spine, cranial, and stereotactic coding, we provide the tools you'll need to help ensure you are compensated appropriately and fairly for your work when scheduling surgery and billing for services.

Who Should Attend?

Neurosurgeons, fellows and chief residents, practice managers, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, surgery schedulers, coders, billing office staff and other office staff members. When neurosurgeons attend with their reimbursement team, this provides the highest return on investment because the entire team hears and takes the same message home to implement change.

Ensure that your entire reimbursement team is using the 2010 codes correctly to optimize reimbursement!

“This course is the most comprehensive and well presented overview of neurosurgical coding and reimbursement that I have attended”

— Debbie Withers, Arcadia, CA

Courses are “hands-on” so be sure to bring your 2010 CPT book. A limited number of CPT books will be available onsite for purchase. Books are not available to borrow during the course.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this CME activity, participants should be able to:

- Apply correct CPT coding concepts to key neurosurgical services.
- Discuss application of new and revised neurosurgical CPT codes in reporting services.
- Utilize modifiers effectively to protect surgical and E&M reimbursement.
- Describe the key steps to a successful revenue cycle.

SAVE THE DATE! August 7 and 8, 2010

Neurosurgeon as CEO: The Business of Neurosurgery

Immediately following the New York coding course, AANS will present the popular *Neurosurgeon as CEO* course. This is an advanced level course for independent thinking practitioners and administrators who want to control their financial destiny. This course will focus on practice strategies such as risk taking, negotiating and hospital employment issues that are necessary to ensure your neurosurgical practice succeeds during these uncertain times of health care reform. If you attend any coding course in 2010, a discount will be made available for the *Neurosurgeon as CEO* course. More details will follow in the *Neurosurgeon as CEO* course brochure and on www.AANS.org/education.

Last year, 97% of attendees indicated they would recommend these AANS courses to others.

Program Schedule — Day One

Understanding What It Takes To Get Paid

Coding isn't the only thing you need to be expert at to ensure you get paid. Working claim denials is not fun! And, it costs you money. What can you do in your office to streamline the payment process? Are there revenue leaks in your practice? We will discuss the steps and processes in a successful revenue cycle and how you can apply these to your practice.

Top Five Things You Need to Know About Medicare in 2010

As one of your major payors, it is important to stay up to date on Medicare's reimbursement policies. Not only is Medicare one of your major payors, but your other payors often follow Medicare's policies. You'll learn:

1. What's new for 2010 – are consultation code payments going away?
2. How to interpret Medicare Part B's Physician Fee Schedule (a.k.a. how you are paid).
3. What Medicare Part C is and how it impacts your bottom line.
4. Where PQRI can be implemented in your practice and make you money.
5. Why you might be audited by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC), Zone Program Integrity Contractors (ZPIC) and more!

What's Included?

Understanding the global surgical package for neurosurgical procedures is the key to accurate coding and reimbursement. You'll learn when it is appropriate to separately code for use of:

- Intraoperative fluoroscopy and radiological services for both spine and cranial procedures
- The operating microscope
- Neuronavigation
- Placement of a ventricular catheter and lumbar drain
- Intraoperative monitoring (e.g., SSEP, EMG)
- Wound closure
- Repair of the cranial or spinal dura and cranioplasty

Special Breakout Session for Physicians!

Opposite the session entitled Understanding What It Takes To Get Paid, there will be a breakout session for physicians discussing new technologies and how to code for these technologies!

Making Sense Out of Modifiers

Are you aware that modifiers can help you get paid? Always confused by when to use modifier 51 or 59? Can't remember the difference between modifiers 58 and 78? And, when should you use modifier 99? We will help you make sense out of modifiers!

Spine Surgery Coding – From Easy to Complex

You asked for it and we listened: discussion of spine surgery coding is now on the first day and a FULL afternoon! We'll start out with the basics and work our way to the complex. You'll do hands-on coding of actual cases submitted by you, the course attendees. Discussion includes:

- What's new in 2010 – new tumor excision codes, changes to the vertebroplasty and spinal neurostimulator codes.
- Making sure your operative note looks like the codes you bill.
- Spine surgery instrumentation and bone graft codes – when to appropriately code for an intervertebral device.
- Coding for common diagnoses such as herniated disc, spinal stenosis, spondylolisthesis, fracture, pain (neurostimulator). Anterior and posterior approaches will be discussed.
- When to code for a spinal level vs. segment, vs. interspace.
- Coding for complex spine procedures including re-exploration/re-do cases, PLIF with/without decompression, removal of hardware with replacement, front-back procedures, and procedures that cross spinal regions.
- When to report co-surgery and where coders often go wrong.
- New technologies and procedures such as minimally invasive spine surgery, AxialIF, XLIF, disc replacement, interspinous process decompression, and sacroplasty.

Course Locations

San Diego, CA

February 12 and 13, 2010

Manchester Grand Hyatt

One Market Place

San Diego, CA 92101

Hotel Phone: (619) 232-1234

Reservations: (800) 233-1234

Room Rates: \$209 single/double

Hotel Reservation Deadline: January 22, 2010

Web site: www.manchesterggrand.hyatt.com

Austin, TX

March 26 and 27, 2010

Four Seasons Hotel Austin

98 San Jacinto Blvd.

Austin, TX 78701

Hotel Phone: (512) 478-4500

Reservations: (512) 685-8100

Room Rates: \$199 single/double

Hotel Reservation Deadline: February 26, 2010

Web site: www.fourseasons.com/austin

Program Schedule – Day Two

The Other Side of Neurosurgery Coding – Cranial and Non-Spine

Cranial and non-spine surgery coding is just as difficult as spine surgery coding so you'll want to get it right the first time.

- Completely revised section this year!
- What's new in 2010 – tumor excision codes.
- Stereotactic procedures: the codes were changed in 2009 – are you using them correctly? What are the neurosurgeon presence requirements? How do you code for frameless radiosurgery? What about radiosurgery of more than one lesion?
- Craniotomy procedures for tumors (e.g., glioblastoma, meningioma, acoustic neuroma), aneurysm (simple vs. complex, one vs. multiple), AVMs, Chiari malformation, traumatic and non-traumatic hematoma, and decompression for traumatic brain injury.
- Neurostimulators – deep brain and vagal nerve.
- Neuroendoscopy, VP shunts, and skull base surgery (open and endoscopic).
- Endovascular coding (expanded section) – what happens when one neurosurgeon does the endovascular procedure and the other does the aneurysm clipping? What if the same neurosurgeon does both? What can you bill if the interventional neuroradiologist does the procedure?
- Carpal tunnel and ulnar nerve procedures – can you bill both? **NEW!**

Non-Physician Provider and Teaching Physician Coding and Documentation Rules

Do you employ a Physician Assistant? Nurse Practitioner? Clinical Nurse Specialist? Registered Nurse First Assistant? We'll discuss Medicare's latest billing guidelines for non-physician providers as well as teaching physicians.

Radiology Coding for Neurosurgeons

More and more neurosurgery practices have imaging equipment in the office. Make sure you understand the coding and documentation issues!

Ambulatory Surgery Center Coding Highlights – NEW!

Do you bill for procedures performed in an ASC? If so, you'll want to make sure you hear the top 5 things you need to know about ASC billing for neurosurgical procedures.

Evaluation & Management Coding – NEW!

Does your code and documentation level match? Are you confident you will pass a RAC or CERT or any payor audit? Due to the increase in recovery/post-payment audits, it's time for an E&M coding and documentation refresher. You'll learn the answers to these questions and more:

- What are the documentation requirements for use of an outpatient vs. inpatient consultation code?
- What documentation is needed for a level 4 or 5 consultation? Can neurosurgeons really bill these high level codes?
- What modifier(s) should be used when you bill: an E&M code and procedure; a visit in the postoperative period; an urgent admission prior to surgery?
- When should critical care codes be billed?
- How can you analyze your E&M code utilization and determine if you are an audit target?

Day 1 and Day 2

7:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM Course Begins

12:00 PM Lunch (provided)

12:45 PM Course Resumes

Course adjourns at 4:00 PM on Day 1 and 3:00 PM on Day 2. *Times subject to change.*

Philadelphia, PA (AANS Annual Meeting)

May 2, 2010
Pennsylvania Convention Center
1101 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

These two (2) half-day courses have a separate agenda, separate registration process and require a different registration fee. Please visit www.aans.org/annual for more information.

New York, NY

August 5 and 6, 2010
The Westin New York at Times Square
270 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036
Hotel Phone: (212) 201-2700
Reservations: (888) 627-7149
Room Rates: \$199 single/double (plus mandatory portorage charge of \$7.00 per person per bag)
Hotel Reservation Deadline: July 14, 2010
Web site: www.westinny.com

General Course Information

CME Credit

The AANS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The AANS designates this educational activity for a maximum of 12.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

AAPC CEU Credit

Each coding program has prior approval by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) for 13.0 continuing education hours. Granting of this approval in no way constitutes endorsement by AAPC of the program content or the program sponsor.

Hotel Accommodations

Registrants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Please identify the AANS course you will be attending when making your hotel reservations. While a sufficient number of rooms have been set aside at the hotel for course registrants, there are occasions when the room block sells out prior to the cut-off date. Please make your hotel reservations as early as possible. Reservations made after the course registration deadline will be accepted on a space-available basis and may not qualify for discounted rates.

Air Transportation

American Airlines The AANS is pleased to announce that American Airlines is their official airline carrier. A 5% discount off the lowest applicable fare will be offered when booking your meeting travel at www.aa.com. Discounts apply on American Airlines and American Eagle qualifying flights. To take advantage of this discount, please enter the following code(s) under promotion code when booking online at www.aa.com: San Diego - 4420AA; Austin - 9130AI; New York - 5980AA; Chicago - 33N0AA.

Do not make airline reservations prior to receiving a letter of confirmation as courses sell out quickly and registration for a program is not finalized until you receive your confirmation.

Car Rental



AANS members receive discounted rates at Alamo car rental. Call (800) 354-2322 or visit www.alamo.com. Please mention or enter ID# 706768.

Disclosure

Before the program, all faculty members will disclose the existence of any financial interest and/or the relationship they or

their significant other might have with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) to be discussed during their presentation.

Registration Policy

As courses sell out months in advance, please register early. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. All registrants will receive a letter of confirmation from the AANS within 14 days of receipt of their registration. Should you fail to receive a letter of confirmation prior to departure, please contact the AANS Department of Education and Meetings.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Cancellation, substitution, or transfer to another course is allowed if written notification is received at least 30 days prior to a scheduled course for a processing fee of \$50. Cancellations or transfers to another course will not be granted within 30 days of the course unless the vacated enrollment is resold. In that event, or if there is a substitution within 30 days, a \$100 processing fee is withheld from your registration fee. Send or fax written cancellation, substitution, or transfer requests to: AANS, Dept. of Education and Meetings, 5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3852; Fax: (847) 378-0681. All requests must be received in writing.

The AANS reserves the right to cancel a course. Registrants will be notified by telephone and a formal letter of cancellation will follow in the mail. In the event of course cancellation, registration fees are refundable. However, airline and hotel penalties are the responsibility of the registrant.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The AANS wishes to take those steps to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If you require any of the auxiliary aids or services identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to attend any AANS program, please contact the AANS Department of Education and Meetings prior to arrival.

Attire Advice

Please dress in layers of clothing to accommodate all temperatures.

Questions

Call the Department of Education and Meetings at (888) 566-AANS (2267) or visit www.AANS.org or email epm@aans.org.

**Please note that the New York coding course is a Thursday and Friday instead of a Friday and Saturday. It is followed on Saturday and Sunday by the Neurosurgeon as CEO course. More details to follow.*

Chicago, IL

November 19 and 20, 2010

Millennium Knickerbocker

163 East Walton Place

Chicago, IL 60611

Hotel Phone: (312) 751-8100

Reservations: (800) 621-8140

Room Rates: \$179 single/\$199 double

Hotel Reservation Deadline: October 19, 2010

Web site: www.millenniumhotels.com/millenniumchicago

Start your
Holiday
shopping in
Chicago!

Registration Form

For multiple registrations, photocopy this form. Please enclose only one check for multiple registrations.

Choose Your Course:

San Diego, CA

February 12 and 13

Austin, TX

March 26 and 27

New York, NY

August 5 and 6

Chicago, IL

November 19 and 20

The two (2) half-day courses taking place at the AANS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia have a separate registration process. Please visit www.AANS.org/annual/2010 for registration information for the Philadelphia courses only.

Registrant Name

Credentials

Office Staff: Please provide the name of the physician you work for

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

Email Address

How your name should read on the registration name badge (please print)

Please contact us regarding special needs associated with a handicap or disability or dietary needs.

2010 Registration Fees

Coding Course

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| AANS Member Physician | <input type="checkbox"/> \$850 |
| Non-Member Physician | <input type="checkbox"/> \$955 |
| AANS Allied Member or NERVES Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$795 |
| Office Staff/Allied Health Professionals | <input type="checkbox"/> \$850 |
| Additional Office Staff/Allied Health | <input type="checkbox"/> \$795 |
| Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> \$530 |
| Military | <input type="checkbox"/> \$530 |



Billing Information

Check enclosed (Please make payable to the AANS) Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Name (Exactly as it appears on the card)

Authorization Signature (I agree to pay according to the credit card issuer agreement.)

How to Register

Mail your registration form to:

AANS

2370 Eagle Way, Chicago, IL 60678-1023

To pay by Visa, MasterCard or American Express, please:

- Call (888) 566-AANS (2267)
- Fax your registration to (847) 378-0681
- Or, register online at www.AANS.org/education

The acronym AANS refers to both the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, a 501 (c)(6) organization, and the American Association of Neurosurgeons, a 501 (c)(3) organization.



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5550 Meadowbrook Drive
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3852

Managing Coding & Reimbursement Challenges in Neurosurgery

2010 Course Dates and Locations

February 12 and 13 San Diego, CA
March 26 and 27 Austin, TX
May 2 Philadelphia, PA
(AANS Annual Meeting)
August 5 and 6 New York, NY
November 19 and 20 Chicago, IL

Neurosurgeon as CEO
August 7 and 8 New York, NY

In addition to these courses, AANS also offers practice management publications. These tools will help you run a more profitable and efficient practice. For a complete listing, visit the Office Essentials link of the AANS Online Marketplace at <http://marketplace.aans.org>.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS