

Virtual Meeting of the Interventional Study Group

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Reimbursement in Interventional MRI

21-Nov-2013

Over the last two decades Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) has been increasingly applied to guide a diagnostic intervention and/ or to monitor a minimally invasive therapeutic procedure. Although the clinical benefit of interventional MRI has been shown for many applications, appropriate reimbursement of procedures frequently lags behind the continuing technological advances. Since interventional MRI is technologically oriented, this payment mismatch disproportionately affects future practice. The best means to arrive at a consistent description of a radiologic procedure or examination is shared terminology. For these procedures, the *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT) manual of the American Medical Association is the reference. In the US, most payers (e.g. Medicare or Medicaid) use CPT codes to determine reimbursement. Similarly, the description of a disease process must be consistent to allow coding of a diagnosis that may necessitate a radiologic procedure or examination. The system used to discuss the disease processes is the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) of the world Health organization. Both systems (ICD and CPT) are under ongoing development and involvement of physicians is required for establishing new coding.

The aim of this virtual meeting is to describe the challenges of current reimbursement in interventional MRI and different strategies to comply with the payment chain. Furthermore we will discuss the challenges in establishing new CPT codes.

Program:

- 11.00-11.05 Introduction of Format and initial poll
Tobias Schaeffter (King's College London)
- 11.05-11.25 Emerging Technology Obstacles: Payment Policy Chain Perspectives
Richard Duszak (Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute)
- 11.25-11.35 Reimbursement of interventional MR procedures at Emory
Sherif Nour (Emory University)
- 11.35-11.45 Reimbursement of interventional MR procedures at Hopkins
Carol Prescott (Johns Hopkins University)
- 11.45-12.00 Panel discussion with questions from audience

Speakers

Richard Duszak, M.D. is Chief Medical Officer of the Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute and incoming Vice Chair for Health Policy and Practice in the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at Emory University. Dr. Duszak was active on the Executive Committee of the American Medical Association's CPT Editorial Panel. His many leadership positions included terms as Vice-Chair of the ACR Commission on Economics, Chair of the ACR Committee on Coding and Nomenclature, and Liaison Director to the Radiology Coding Certification Board. Dr. Duszak is currently Associate Editor for Health Services Research and Policy for the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*. He has authored over one hundred publications and delivered several hundred invited lectures on health policy and payment systems.

Carol Prescott has been a registered Nurse for 30 years. She performed direct patient care and then concentrated on Vascular Surgery at the University of South Florida and the University of Maryland Hospital. Mrs Prescott has been associated, in various roles, with Interventional Radiology and Neuroradiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins University for the past 20 years and is currently the Radiology Pro-Fee Interventional Coding Manager. She is a RBMA sanctioned Registered Radiology Coder.

Sherif Nour M.D. is Associate Professor of Radiology and Director of Interventional MRI at Emory University. Prior to joining the Emory Radiology Department in a 2009, Dr. Nour was an Assistant Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Director of Interventional MRI Therapy Program and Attending Radiologist for the Body Imaging Section at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. Dr. Nour has over 85 publications in various medical resources, including manuscripts, abstracts and textbook chapters.

Additional Panel Member

Clifford Weiss M.D is assistant professor at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Weiss received his medical, diagnostic and interventional radiology training at Johns Hopkins University and has over a decade of clinical experience directly managing patient care. In addition, he serves on numerous policy and review boards within the radiological sciences, and has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles. He launched the Johns Hopkins interventional MRI service in 2009 and regularly treats patients using MR-guidance. Dr. Weiss has also recently been named the Clinical Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Bioengineering, Innovation, and Design program. He provides clinical feedback and oversight to drive the development of current medical device projects. Dr. Weiss holds grant funding from the NIH, the Coulter Foundation, and Siemens Corporation.

Bonnie Gillum is the Assistant Administrator of Billing, Coding and Compliance for Johns Hopkins Department of Radiology. Mrs Gillum has managed profee billing offices in Florida, Michigan and New Jersey in the last 30 years and is a RBMA Radiology Certified Coder for Johns Hopkins for the last 15 years.