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Coding Corner

The Coding Corner is a collection of updates, tips, and pointers intended to help address common medical coding issues and to pass along coding news and updates suggested by the AUC’s Medical Code TAG and other sources.



The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works closely with the AUC in implementing and administering health care administrative simplification requirements and best practices. Recent MDH news releases since the start of 2016 have put several key public health issues in the spotlight, and this month’s Coding Corner below provides links to a few representative examples of information available regarding coding and billing for these issues. The links below are not exhaustive, but suggest a range of resources that are available online to help in coding for the public health issues below. *Thanks to Judy Edwards at MDH for suggesting this month’s Coding Corner.*

SIV and HIV: Last month MDH reported that [sexually transmitted diseases in Minnesota hit an all-time high in 2015](#) and in February it reported that [syphilis cases in women in the state were up 63 percent in 2015 compared to 2014](#). The agency also reported that while the total number of new HIV diagnoses in the state for 2015 remained about the same as in 2014, [the number of new HIV diagnoses increased significantly for certain groups](#), especially among 20- to 29-year-olds and injection drug users who were also persons of color.

- **Billing and coding resources:** Several sources provide diagnostic and procedure coding tips for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and for HIV-related diagnosis and care. For example, see the American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC) 2015 article on [STI Screening](#) as well as an April, 2016 article regarding [ICD-10 diagnostic coding for HIV](#). Organizations such as the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) have also posted resources regarding [ICD-10-CM coding for HIV/AIDS](#).

Foodborne illness: Earlier this year, MDH also reported on [investigations of foodborne illness caused by Salmonella](#) and [e-coli bacteria](#).

- **Billing and coding resources:** Resources such as the “[ICD-10 monitor](#)” have published guidance on [Coding for Foodborne Illnesses](#).

Diabetes: In March 2016 MDH issued a press release regarding the [strong link between income and diabetes](#), as evidenced in diabetes rates that were more than twice as high for working age Minnesotans with incomes below \$35,000 annually (diabetes rate: 12.5%) as for Minnesotans with incomes over \$35,000 (diabetes rate: 5%).

- **Billing and coding resources:** There are a number readily available resources providing information and tips for billing and coding of diabetes-related diagnosis and care, including:
 - The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), [codes for prediabetes and diabetes screening](#);
 - American Academy of Family Practice, [Documenting Diabetes Mellitus Under ICD-10](#);
 - AHIMA, [Coding Diabetes Mellitus in ICD-10-CM](#);

- American Academy of Ophthalmology, [3 Tips for Coding Diabetes With ICD-10](#);
- American Association of Diabetes Educators, [New ICD-10-CM Codes for Diabetes Self-Management Training](#);
- AAPC, [Identify Causal Relationship Links in Diabetes](#) and [Understand concepts that may or may not factor into ICD-10-CM code choices](#).

TAG Updates

Information about AUC committees and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) and their activities, including meeting minutes, can be accessed from the [AUC TAG page](#) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/activity.htm>).

Meeting agendas and other materials are posted on the AUC website in advance of meetings. TAG meeting schedules and information are also available on the [AUC calendar page](#) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/calendar.htm>).

With the exception of the Medical Code TAG, TAG meetings are generally conducted via teleconference rather than in-person. All AUC meetings are open, public meetings.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The AUC Operations Committee meets quarterly. The last Committee meeting was March 8, 2016 at the TIES Event Center in Falcon Heights (St. Paul), Minnesota. A summary of the meeting was published in the April 2016 edition of the AUC Update. The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Committee is June 14, 2016.

Note: The AUC Operations Committee (Ops) meets in person and via teleconference. Information to attend the meetings via teleconference can be accessed from the Ops meeting information page at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/infoops.htm>.

ELIGIBILITY TAG

Eligibility met on April 27 to complete its review of a draft implementation guide for a new proposed X12 transaction, the *ASC X12 Premium Payment Grace Period Notification (271) (007030X344)*, in response to an X12 request for public comments. (See related story in April 2016 issue of AUC Update.)

The TAG approved a set of comments to submit to X12 regarding the proposed new implementation guide on May 2, 2016. The comments included:

- acknowledgment in some cases of differences of opinion about the particular approach taken by X12 in developing a new transaction rather than adapting the existing 005010X203 Eligibility Inquiry and Response (270/271), and differences of opinion regarding the levels of detail presented in the transaction and applicability of the transaction;
- a general statement of appreciation to X12 for developing a transaction that uses machine-machine data exchanges;
- requests for greater clarity of both the intent and the content of the implementation guide in a few instances; and
- the identification of typos and other minor corrections.

The TAG's recommended comments were submitted to the Operations Committee and were approved by an email vote on May 6,

2016. The AUC's comments were then forwarded to X12 to meet a May 9 submission deadline.

The Eligibility TAG is next scheduled to meet on May 25.

EOB/REMIT TAG

The EOB/Remit TAG last met on April 18 to continue development of a best practice for use of the 835 for recoupment of overpayment under a variety of scenarios. The TAG is scheduled to next meet again on May 16, to complete work on the overpayment recoupment best practices.

The next TAG meeting is scheduled for May 16.

MEDICAL CODE TAG

The MCT met on April 14 and reviewed proposed changes to the 837P and 837I companion guides as part of annual maintenance of the guides. The proposed changes are primarily related to Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) updates and clarifications.

The TAG is scheduled to meet May 12 to vote on the guide updates. If the TAG approves, the proposed changes will be forwarded for a vote by Ops. If approved by the Committee, the revisions will be submitted as recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Health to be adopted into rule.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met on May 2 and discussed:

- recent TAG activity, and in particular, the Eligibility TAG's development of comments to X12 regarding a proposed new transaction (see also above under the Eligibility TAG update) and development by the EOB/Remit TAG of a best practice for

using the remittance advice (835) for recoupment of overpayments;

- findings of the 2015 National Committee on Health and Vital Statistics (NCVHS) public hearing on administrative simplification that were also presented at the March AUC Operations meeting, as well as findings of the most recent edition of the CAQH “Index” describing national usage rates of key electronic administrative transactions and the savings potential for increasing the rates of use; and
- initial planning for the Operations Committee meeting scheduled for June 14.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for June 6.

STANDING TAGS THAT DID NOT MEET IN APRIL 2016

- Claims DD
- Acknowledgments
- ACO Data Analytics

National News



WEDI ERA/EFT Survey

The national Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is conducting a survey to

learn more about the implementation of electronic remittance advices (ERA) and electronic funds transfer (EFT), and to compare the current implementation with data from two years ago.

[The survey is available online](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZTJMV6Q), at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZTJMV6Q>.

HHS Issues Challenge to Improve Medical Billing

The federal department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced a challenge to redesign the medical bill for patients. The purpose of the challenges is “to encourage health care organizations, designers, developers, digital tech companies and other innovators to design a medical bill that’s simpler, cleaner, and easier for patients to understand, and to improve patients’ experience of the overall medical billing process.”

The challenge was announced at the annual HHS Datapalooza conference. In a related press release, HHS noted that it seeks to bring “everyone to the table: patients, doctors, hospitals, insurance companies and innovators” to improve the medical billing process.

Submissions to the challenge will be accepted until August 10, 2016. Challenge winners will be announced in September 2016 and will receive a cash prize. In addition, several large health care organizations have committed to test or implement the winning entries for the patients they serve.

For more information, see the [related HHS press release](#) at

<http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/05/09/hhs-announces-challenge-redesign-medical-bill-patients.html>.

AUC May- June 2016 Meeting Calendar

AUC meetings currently scheduled for May and June 2016 are listed below. For more information, please see the [AUC calendar page](http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/calendar.htm) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/calendar.htm>).

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 12 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Medical Code TAG Meeting Medical Code TAG Meeting Information	HealthPartners-Bloomington 8170 Building, 1st Floor - St. Croix Room
May 16 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	EOB/Remit TAG Meeting EOB/Remit TAG Meeting Information	Teleconference & WebEx only
May 25 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Eligibility TAG Meeting Eligibility TAG Meeting Information	Teleconference & WebEx only
June 1 9:00am - 10:30am	Claims DD TAG Meeting Claims DD TAG Meeting Information	Teleconference & WebEx only
June 6 8:30am - 10:30am	Executive Committee Meeting Executive Committee Meeting Information	HealthPartners-Bloomington 8170 Building, 1st Floor - Walnut Room
June 9 9:00am - 12:00pm	Medical Code TAG Meeting Medical Code TAG Meeting Information	HealthPartners-Bloomington 8170 Building, 1st Floor - St. Croix Room
June 14 2:00pm - 4:00pm	Operations Committee Meeting Operations Committee Meeting Information	TIES Event Center, Larpenteur Room 1644 Larpenteur Avenue West, Falcon Heights, MN 55108
June 20 1:00pm - 2:30pm	EOB/Remit TAG Meeting EOB/Remit TAG Meeting Information	Teleconference & WebEx only
June 22 2:00pm - 4:00pm	Eligibility TAG Meeting Eligibility TAG Meeting Information	Teleconference & WebEx only