Coding Update 2019: Mastering the Coding Maze  
Monday, September 23-Tuesday, September 24  
McCormick Convention Center, Room W471AB

Course Director: Donna M. Lahey, RNFA; Scottsdale, AZ  
Coding Committee  
Chairs: Scott I. Horn, DO; Virginia Beach, VA  
William Mitchell, MD; Mount Laurel, NJ  
Karin R. Swartz, MD; Milwaukee, WI

Invited Faculty
Peng Bai, DO; Winston Salem, NC  
R. Dale Blasier, MD, FRCSC, MBA; Little Rock, AZ  
Christopher P. Kauffman, MD; Nashville, TN  
Donna M. Lahey, RNFA, Scottsdale, AZ  
E. Kano Mayer, MD; Austin, TX  
Charles A. Mick, MD; Northampton, MA  
William Mitchell, MD; Mount Laurel, NJ  
Gregory J. Przybyski, MD; Edison, NJ  
Jeffrey A. Stone, MD, FACR, Jacksonville, FL  
Karin R. Swartz, MD; Milwaukee, WI

Description
Whether you are a beginning or advanced coder, this highly interactive course led by expert physician faculty will provide comprehensive coding information you can immediately use to maximize your profits and capture lost revenue. Coding Update will take you beyond the basics, covering the latest information on ICD-10, E&M coding, and CPT-4 coding of surgical, medical and radiologic procedures.

Upon leaving this course, you will be able to parlay your coding knowledge to optimize reimbursement, navigate through the authorization and denial process, identify nuances that affect proper billing and cause rejected/delayed claims, utilize Medicare NCCI edits, and properly document to meet medical necessity guidelines.

Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to:
- Meet one-on-one with physician faculty who lead NASS’ CPT, RUC and reimbursement efforts;
- Examine real life cases and perform operative note dissection in the hands-on coding sessions;
- Participate in an interactive panel discussion, which will explore claim denials and tips to avoid them with leading experts in the spine coding industry;
- Attend either an advanced breakout session delving into complex surgical case coding or a basic breakout session identifying anatomy and terminology in spine care.

Credits
NASS designates this live activity for a maximum of 15 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The American Medical Association has determined that physicians not licensed in the US to participate in this CME activity are eligible for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

This program meets AAPC guidelines for 15.0 CEUs. Can be used for Core A and all specialties except CIRCC for continuing education units.

What’s on Your Mind? Interactive breakout sessions with faculty ensure that no stone is left unturned and all questions are addressed by the end of the course!
Managing Denials and Appeals: During an interactive discussion on surgical denials and the appeals process, join us as we examine payer policies and learn how to avoid unwanted denials, peer reviews and the murky appeals process. Both payer and provider perspectives will be presented, and the audience will then have time to ask questions to the panel and discuss issues relevant to their practice.

Objectives
Upon completion of this course, participants should gain strategies to:

- Improve cash flow by reducing denials, resubmissions, and rejected claims;
- Correlate correct coding with practice reimbursement ensuring that every procedure is reimbursed at its highest allowable level;
- Recognize the relationship between proper diagnostic (ICD10) and procedural coding (CPT4);
- Learn the elements required for complete and accurate documentation for E&M coding and medical and surgical procedure notes to meet medical necessity requirements;
- Know the accurate use of modifiers and their impact on reimbursement;
- Effectively and accurately code interventional injection procedures and neurologic testing;
- Utilize payer reimbursement policies to avoid claim denials and obtain proper authorization.

Monday, September 23

7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Introduction
Donna M. Lahey, RNFA

8:00-8:30 a.m. What’s On Your Mind?
Faculty Panel
Interactive breakout sessions with faculty to ensure that no stone is left unturned and all questions are addressed by the end of the course.

8:30-9:30 a.m. Tips and Pearls for Codes and Bundling: The Inner Works
William Mitchell, MD
- New Codes and CPT Changes
- Bundling: Meaning and Applications
- CCI Edits: Bundling and Unbundling
- Types of Codes: Primary/Add-on/Mod 51 Exempt
- Are All Codes Equal?
- Anatomy of and within CPT
- Code Vignettes

9:30-10:15 a.m. Modifiers
R. Dale Blasier, MD, FRCSC, MBA

10:15-10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:30-11:30 a.m. 22000 Series Codes
Christopher P. Kauffman, MD

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 63000 Series Codes
Gregory J. Przybylski, MD

12:30-1:30 p.m. LUNCH
Monday, September 23

1:30-2:30 p.m.  Managing Denials and Appeals  
*Moderator: Gregory J. Przybylski, MD*  
*Faculty Panel*  
An Interactive Discussion on Surgical Denials and the Appeals Process: With two sides to every coin, join us as we examine a Payer Policy on Lumbar Fusion and learn how to avoid unwanted denials, peer reviews and the murky appeals process. Both Payer and Provider perspectives will be presented and the audience will have time to ask questions to the panel and discuss issues relevant to their practices.

2:30-3:30 p.m.  Coding Challenges  
*Donna M. Lahey, RNFA*  
- HCFA 1500 Navigation  
- The Authorization Process  
- Carrier Specific Policies: Distinguish Between Medicare and Carrier Specific Policies

3:30-3:45 p.m.  BREAK

3:45-5:00 p.m.  Coding Dissection  
*William Mitchell, MD*  
Determine Where to Start When Coding an Operative Report: Key Components  
Examine Operative Notes, Submitted by Your Peers, for Correct Coding and Documentation

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Tuesday, September 24

7:30-8:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast

8:00-8:45 a.m.  Injections Coding  
*Peng Bai, MD*  
Coding for Injections Procedures

8:45-9:15 a.m.  Coding for Injections  
*E. Kano Mayer, MD*  
- Nuances  
- Authorization Prerequisites  
- Denials  
- Reimbursement and Documentation for Payment: Carrier Specific Policies

9:15-10:15 p.m.  Tips and Pearls for Coding and Payment  
*Donna M. Lahey, RNFA*  
- Coding Tools for the Everyday Practice  
- Site of Service Coding Issues: What Can I Do Where?  
- The Importance of Documentation for Reimbursement: Key Spine Issues  
- Appeals and Denials/Templates

10:15-10:30 a.m.  BREAK

10:30-11:30 a.m.  Evaluation & Management Scenarios  
*Christopher P. Kauffman, MD*

11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  Evaluation & Management Scenarios  
*Christopher P. Kauffman, MD*

12:00-1:00 p.m.  LUNCH
Tues\n\n\n1:00-2:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions
Faculty: Peng Bai, MD; R. Dale Blasier, MD, FRCSC, MBA; Christopher P. Kauffman, MD; E. Kano Mayer, MD; William Mitchell, MD; Charles A. Mick, MD; Karin R. Swartz, MD; Jeffrey A. Stone, MD, FACP
Session A: Advanced Physicians/Practitioners
Session B: Anatomy and Injection Review for Billers and Coders

2:00-2:45 p.m. Coding for Radiographic Procedures
Jeffrey A. Stone, MD, FACP
Coding for Radiographic Imaging Studies
Coding for Tumor Ablation/Biopsies

2:45-3:15 p.m. Coding for Physician Extenders
Karin R. Swartz, MD

3:15-3:30 p.m. BREAK

3:30-4:15 p.m. Politics and Policies
Charles A. Mick, MD
What Can We Expect with the Administration?
Government Mandates: MACRA: MIPS and APM's Replacing EHR/PQRS/Value-based Modifier
Penalties and Incentives for Government Mandates
RUC/CPT Process
SpinePAC: Top Reimbursement Issues Addressed - What Awaits Us in the Future?

4:15-5:00 p.m. Alternative Payment Models: How to Survive in Today's Healthcare Environment
E. Kano Mayer, MD
Recent Changes to Bundled Payment Models

5:00 p.m. Course Adjourns