March 3, 2014

Dear NASS Members,

As part of its mission to foster the highest quality, evidence-based and ethical spine care, the North American Spine Society (NASS) regularly works with the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on spine-related coding and reimbursement issues.

I am pleased to announce that NASS was successful in obtaining a new Category I CPT code for two-level cervical total disc arthroplasty, which will go into effect January 1, 2015. After a review of NASS’ proposal, the AMA CPT Editorial Panel added this code and revised the existing Category III CPT code to describe three or more level arthroplasty. These changes will allow for accurate reporting of additional levels and will preserve the ability to obtain a Category I code for three or more level arthroplasty in the future as more literature becomes available.

NASS and other interested specialty societies will now participate in the AMA’s Relative Value System Update Committee (RUC) process to develop value recommendations for this code. Once the RUC has approved the value recommendations, they will be forwarded to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for consideration in the 2015 Medicare physician fee schedule.

I would like to acknowledge Christopher Kauffman, MD, William Mitchell, MD, and David O’Brien, MD for their leadership in advocating for fair coding and reimbursement decisions while promoting evidence-based medicine.

NASS will continue its efforts to advocate on your behalf and the patients you serve.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

William Watters III, MD
President, North American Spine Society