Jumping Right In!

- Code the following:
  
  38 year old female for right breast biopsy with percutaneous needle core using image guidance. Followed three days later with a simple complete mastectomy and immediate insertion of implant.

  - What are the keywords to find the codes?
  - Are there helpful notes or references? Do they apply?
  - What else would be helpful to know?
Jumping Right In!

• Code the following:
  
  38 year old female for right breast biopsy with percutaneous needle core using image guidance. Followed three days later with a simple complete mastectomy and immediate insertion of implant.

  19102 Bx of breast, percutaneous needle core using image guidance
  19295 Image guided placement
  19303 Mastectomy, simple; complete
  19340 Immediate insertion of breast prosthesis

Try Another One!

• 54 year old male with pre-op Dx of primary malignancy of prostate based on previous biopsy, Urethral dilation, TURP, contact laser vaporization, incidental bilateral vasectomy

  – What do the notes tell you about this one?
Try Another One!

• 54 year old male with pre-op Dx of primary malignancy of prostate based on previous biopsy, Urethral dilation, TURP, contact laser vaporization, incidental bilateral vasectomy

52648 Laser vaporization of prostate, complete

One More!

• 39 year old female with personal history of malignant neoplasms of colon. Biopsied and found to have three new malignant lesions of small intestine at contiguous sites. Resection and anastomosis of three sites with enterostomy.

– What else would have been helpful to know from the notes above?
One More!

- **39 year old female with personal history of malignant neoplasms of colon. Biopsied and found to have three new malignant lesions of small intestine at contiguous sites. Resection and anastomosis of three sites with enterostomy.**

  44125 Enterectomy; single resection and anastomosis
  44121 ; each additional
  44125 ; with enterostomy

Using CPT

- CPT is published by The American Medical Association who has the copyright on all codes.
- It is divided into six major sections:
  - Evaluation and Management
  - Anesthesia
  - Surgery
  - Radiology
  - Pathology
  - Medicine
Using CPT – Surgical Section

- Integumentary
- Musculoskeletal
- Respiratory
- Cardiovascular
- Hemic and Lymphatic
- Mediastinum and Diaphragm
- Digestive
- Urinary
- Male Genital
- Female Genital
- Maternity/delivery
- Endocrine
- Nervous System
- Eye
- Auditory

Using the Index

- Main Terms
  - Procedure: endoscopy, anastomosis
  - Organ or anatomic site: colon, salivary gland, knee
  - Condition: abscess, thawing, bleeding
  - Synonyms, eponyms and abbreviations: CABG, Bricker Operation, Clagett Procedure
Finding the Surgical Procedure

• Search the operative report for key terms
• Use the CPT Index to find the key terms and referenced codes
• Review the codes for accuracy to the report
• Pay attention to all notes and evaluate other codes in the same section
• Keep track – you may need to look it up again

Picking the Keywords

**Title of Operation:**
1. Right total knee arthroplasty with Salzer Natural Knee II prosthesis.
2. Synovectomy, medial release, right knee.

**Preoperative Diagnosis:** Severe osteoarthritis, right knee.

**Postoperative Diagnosis:** Severe osteoarthritis, right knee.

**Procedure in Detail:** Under spinal anesthesia, the patient was placed in the supine position. The right leg was prepped and draped in the usual fashion. The leg was draped with Esmarch, and a tourniquet on the right upper thigh was inflated to 350 mmHg pressure. A 25 cm midline incision was made, centering over the patella. The incision was deepened, and a trivector-sparing incision was made to enter the joint. Osteoarthritis was noted.

Continued dictation…
Getting Some Extra Help

• Use a search engine on key terms such as Google, Bing or Yahoo
• Check the NSQIP sources
• Networking with other SCRs
• Know the CPT sections you work with most often
• Stay educated
Most Common NSQIP Procedures

- Hepatobiliary: biliary tree (N = 43,299)
- Excisional breast (N = 36,763)
- Hernia: ventral/umbilical/incisional/other (N = 32,638)
- Hernia: inguinal/femoral incisional mesh (N = 20,445)
- Colorectal: appendectomy (N = 20,046)
- Esophagogastric: bariatric (N = 23,769)
- Head and neck: tumor (N = 20,057)
- Minor vascular: chest/extremity (N = 5,863)
- Small intestine: resection/ostomy (N = 5,903)
- Small intestine: lysis of adhesions, other (N = 5,683)
- Abdominal: exploration (N = 5,769)
- Hepatobiliary: pancreas (N = 4,832)
- Musculoskeletal: amputation (N = 4,800)
- Esophagogastric: gastric (N = 4,748)
- Esophagogastric: esophagus/gastric (N = 4,633)
- Hysterectomy (N = 4,454)
- Musculoskeletal: arthroscopy (N = 4,255)
- Musculoskeletal: spine (N = 3,480)
- Colorectal: abdominopерineal resection (N = 3,169)
- Musculoskeletal: knee (N = 2,970)
- Anorectal: abscess (N = 2,508)
- Simple skin and soft tissue (N = 2,383)
- Colorectal: low anastomosis (N = 2,293)
- Hepatobiliary: liver (N = 2,144)
- Anorectal: resection (N = 2,103)
- Musculoskeletal: fracture repair (N = 2,065)
- Biopsy skin and soft tissue (N = 2,014)

ACS NSQIP = American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program

What Is Your Profile?

- The “80/20” Rule
  - Most of your problem coding will come from just 20% or less of the cases you do
  - Most cases are repeats of cases you have been reporting
  - Most problems occur because of the relatively rare incidence or because the documentation in the operative reports is unclear or unfamiliar
Coding Exercises

• Bilateral total mastectomy with reconstruction using pectoralis flap muscle and insertion of tissue expander

19307-50 (modified radical mastectomy sparing the major pectoralis muscle) and 19357-50 (reconstruction with tissue expander)
Coding Exercises

• Right hemicolecotomy

With a right hemicolecotomy, the surgeon will often remove the internal ileum when reconnecting the right colon, because the blood flow to the ileum isn’t good enough. Instead of billing for a standard partial colectomy (44204), you can report ileocolostomy code 44205 in these cases.

If the surgeon refers to the transverse colon, then chances are s/he performed a “straight anastomosis” and took down the hepatic flexure. In this case, you’d just bill 44204.
Coding Exercises

• Incisional hernia repair with mesh with bilateral component separation

49561 Initial Incisional or ventral hernia repair, initial

If recurrent 49565

49568 Implantation of mesh

Note: this coding assumes it was reducible. If not then 49561 or 49566
Coding Exercises

• Dilatation of colorectal anastomosis with takedown of ileostomy and repair of paraileostomy hernia

44620 is closure of an enterostomy (takedown of ilieostomy) and 45340 is balloon dilation sigmoidoscopy (45303 is proctosigmoid dilation (any method)).

The hernia repair is likely an incisional repair and coded as previous example
Coding Exercises

• Partial resection of the cecum without anastomosis

44147, Partial colectomy, abdominal and transanal approach
Coding Exercises

• Left groin exploration with ilioinguinal nerve resection

64772 transection or avulsion of other spinal nerve, extradural;

64772 is a superficial procedure, and the incision made does not enter deep into the body cavity, so physicians cannot claim for both the incision and the ligation.
Coding Exercises

• Suturing of vein in the retrogastric region

35221 Repair blood vessel; intra-abdominal
Coding Exercises

- Enterolysis and salpingo-oophorectomy with serosal tear repair

58740 Lysis of adhesions (salpingolysis, ovariolysis)
58720 Salpingo-oopherectomy, complete or partial, unilateral or bilateral.
44602 Repair of small intestine or 44604 repair of large intestine
Coding Exercises

• Resection of metastases at the origin of the interior mesenteric artery (mass removed from pre-aortic origin size 5x5x4)

44820 Excision of lesion of the mesentery
Coding Exercises

• Exploratory laparotomy with tri-cut (Tru-Cut?) needle biopsy of the liver and drainage of ascites

47000 Biopsy of liver, needle, percutaneous

49080 Peritoneocentesis, initial
Coding Exercises

• Laparoscopic cholecystectomy converted to open with repair of stricture of common hepatic duct

47562 (Lap cholecystectomy) converts to open (47600) or with cholangiogram (47605)
Coding Exercises

• High ligation of saphenofemoral junction with stripping of long saphenous veins on right thigh and stripping of multiple recurrent varicose veins on right leg, avulsion and stripping of tributaries of left calf

37700 Ligation and division of long saphenous vein at the sapheno-femoral junction
37772 is stripping of long saphenous vein from saphenofemoral junction to knee or below (note indicates it is not to be billed with 37700)
37765 Stab phlebectomy of varicose veins, 1 extremity, 10-20 stab incisions.
• Excision of axillary sweat glands

11450 Excision of skin and subcutaneous tissue for hidradenitis (inflammation of the sweat glands), axillary; simple repair

11451 ; complex repair
More Questions?

Summary

• Improve your coding through practice
• Use every resource
• When in doubt --- ASK!
• ACS Coding Manual

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