

New & Deleted 2009 CPT Codes: Important Changes for Nuclear Medicine Professionals

The AMA recently released the 2009 CPT codes that will be effective January 1, 2009. As a reminder, CMS no longer allows a grace period for implementation of any code sets. This year you will find some minor changes in the nuclear medicine procedure code section. Specifically, there is one new code and there are two deleted codes in the nuclear medicine section.

Each year the SNM Coding & Reimbursement Workgroup reviews sections of the nuclear medicine CPT codes based on SNM members' questions. The workgroup then recommends changes to the AMA CPT Editorial Panel to clarify the appropriate use of these codes based on current medical practice. For 2009, nuclear medicine professionals will see changes to the computer processing codes and a new code in other procedures (see Category I table below).

Additionally, new this year, nuclear medicine professionals will have available the first nuclear medicine specific AMA Category II quality measures. Stay tuned for additional educational materials and CMS guidance regarding appropriate utilization. However, we have provided those new codes and descriptions below in the Category II Table, for your information. These quality measures are effective October 1, 2008 however, will not be listed in the 2009 CPT book, and will appear in the 2010 CPT book. A complete listing of the AMA Category II codes can be located at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/10616.html>

AMA 2009 CPT® CATEGORY I CODE CHANGES FOR THE NUCLEAR MEDICINE SECTION, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009

2009 CPT® Code	Comments	Long Description
NEW ● 78808	This new code reflects the resources required to provide those radioactive drugs by intravenous routes prior to gamma probe localization (eg, parathyroid tumors).	Injection procedure for radiopharmaceutical localization by non-imaging probe study, intravenous (eg, parathyroid adenoma) (For sentinel lymph node identification, use 38792)
Deleted 78890	CPT Codes 78890 and 78891 previously described the components of computer processing required for	Generation of automated data: interactive process involving nuclear physician and/or allied health professional personnel; simple manipulations and interpretation, not to exceed 30 minutes

<p>Deleted</p> <p>78891</p>	<p>nuclear medicine procedures. As technology has progressed, the components of computer processing required for nuclear medicine procedures have been included directly in the 78000 series of codes. As such, these services are no longer separately reported.</p>	<p>Generation of automated data: interactive process involving nuclear physician and/or allied health professional personnel; complex manipulations and interpretation, exceeding 30 minutes</p>
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AMA 2009 CPT® CATEGORY II QUALITY CODE ADDITIONS FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE PROFESSIONALS, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

CPT® Code Category II	Quality Measure Comments	Long Description
<p>NEW</p> <p>● 3570F</p>	<p>This new code could be used to report to a payer the presence or absence (with modifiers) in a nuclear medicine bone scintigraphy procedure report, the discussion of the correlation to other relevant imaging studies.</p>	<p>Final report for bone scintigraphy study includes correlation with existing relevant imaging studies (eg, x-ray, MRI, CT) corresponding to the same anatomical region in question (NUC_MED)</p>
<p>NEW</p> <p>● 3572F</p>	<p>These two new codes could be used to report to a payer the potential risk for fracture and the communications to referring physicians with modifiers</p>	<p>Patient considered to be potentially at risk for fracture in a weight-bearing site (NUC_MED)</p>
<p>NEW</p> <p>● 3573F</p>	<p></p>	<p>Patient not considered to be potentially at risk for fracture in a weight-bearing site (NUC_MED)</p>