



## Radiology Views™ Newsletter – June 2010

### CT with CONTRAST – DOCUMENT ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

**INTRODUCTION:** This newsletter has been developed to give you insight as to how the documentation of contrast with CT studies directly affects your reimbursement and what you need to know.

**BACKGROUND:** Medicare allowable and RVU assignments vary based on whether the CT was performed without contrast, with contrast, and without and with contrast.

CPT	DESCRIPTION	OH MEDICARE ALLOWABLE	RVU
74150-26	CT Abdomen <u>w/o contrast</u>	\$59.25	1.19
74160-26	CT Abdomen <u>w/contrast</u>	\$63.12	1.27
74170-26	CT Abdomen <u>w/o and w/contrast</u>	\$76.36	1.4

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:** For coding and billing purposes, it is the documentation of the route of administration that is important to ensure accurate CPT code selection.

With contrast CT codes are selected providing the route of administration was one of the following:

- Intravascularly
- Intra-articularly
- Intrathecally

Oral and/or rectal contrast administration alone does not qualify as a study "with contrast."

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

- ✓ When contrast material is administered, document the route of administration.
- ✓ When multiple CT scans are documented on one radiology report, identify how each scan was performed.

#### **References:**

ACR Practice Guideline for Communication of Diagnostic Imaging: "The report should include a description of the studies and/or procedures performed and any contrast media (including concentration, volume, and route of administration when applicable)..."

CPT 2010 Professional Edition: The phrase "with contrast" used in the codes for procedures performed using contrast for imaging enhancement represents contrast material administered intravascularly, intra-articularly or intrathecally. And "Oral and/or rectal contrast administered alone does not qualify as a study "with contrast."

**If you have any questions on this or other documentation and coding topics, please call or email Wendy Block, at 330.564.2618 or wblock@prcmedical.com.**