



Radiology Views™ Newsletter – August 2010

PROPER DOCUMENTATION OF CT UROGRAMS, CT CYSTOGRAPHY, OR VIRTUAL CYSTOSCOPY

THE PROBLEM: Exams titled CT Urograms, CT Cystograms, or Virtual Cystoscopy do not have a single universal definition of what comprises the study. What is actually performed may differ from facility to facility.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Assignment of CPT (procedure) codes must accurately reflect the procedure performed in order to facilitate timely and accurate payment. There is no single CPT code that describes all components of a CT Urogram, CT Cystogram or Virtual Cystoscopy. There are multiple codes that may describe the procedure performed such as CT Abdomen, CT Pelvis, and 3D image post processing. In order for each CPT code to be assigned, each procedure must be thoroughly documented.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- ✓ Avoid using terms such as: CT Urograms, CT Cystograms, or Virtual Cystoscopy.
- ✓ Document each study performed using terms such as: CT Abdomen, CT Pelvis, and 3D Image postprocessing.
- ✓ Document the route of contrast administration for each CT.
- ✓ Document 3D Image postprocessing.

THE BENEFIT: Documenting each component of the study will ensure accurate CPT code assignments for the actual work performed and facilitate timely and accurate payment.

References:

ACR Coding Q. & A., 2007, [American College of Radiology, Coding Q. & A.](#)

CPT 2010 Professional Edition, Radiology Instruction Notes, Administration of 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.