



Radiology Views™ Newsletter – April 2010

Moderate Sedation – Important Documentation Tips

Radiologists Affected: Radiologists providing moderate sedation for the diagnostic and/or therapeutic service they perform.

CPT Definition: (99143 – 99145) Moderate Sedation services provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient's level of consciousness and physiological status.

What you need to know:

1. Document who provided the moderate sedation.

There are two sets of moderate sedation CPT codes. One set (99143-99145) is used when the physician performing the procedure is the same one providing the moderate sedation. The second set (99148-99150) is used when the moderate sedation is provided by a physician other than the physician performing the procedure.

2. Document the intraservice time.

Intraservice time starts with the administration of the sedation agent(s), requires continuous face-to-face attendance, and ends at the conclusion of personal contact by the physician performing the sedation.

Additional CPT code(s) can be added whenever the intraservice time exceeds 30 minutes, in 15 minutes increments.

3. Document that there was an independent trained observer present.

The code description includes "...requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient's level of consciousness and physiological status."

What you need to do:

When you are providing moderate sedation in addition to a diagnostic and/or therapeutic service, include in your documentation:

- ✓ Who provided the moderate sedation.
- ✓ Intraservice time in minutes
- ✓ That there was an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient.

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.