



Radiology Views™ Newsletter – July 2010

MRI – ADDRESSING DOCUMENTATION ISSUES

The purpose of this newsletter is to address certain MRI documentation issues that directly affect reimbursement.

ISSUE 1: DOCUMENTATION OF CONTRAST.

- ✓ What you need to do: Document the route of contrast administration.
- ✓ Why? Payments and RVUs vary based on whether the study was performed without, with, or without and with contrast.

ISSUE 2: COMPLETE MRI BRAIN & COMPLETE MRI INTERNAL AUDITORY CANAL (IAC).

- ✓ What you need to do: When a complete MRI of the brain and a complete MRI of the IAC are performed, document each study independently of the other.
- ✓ Why? Providing it was medically necessary to do so, when a complete MRI of the brain is performed in conjunction with a complete MRI of the IAC, both studies can be billed. On the other hand, if a complete MRI of the brain is done with just a few extra sequences focused on the IAC, the extra sequences would be considered to be part of the base study, and would not be billed separately.

ISSUE 3: MRI PELVIS & MRI BILATERAL HIPPS.

- ✓ What you need to do: Provide documentation that accurately describes the additional study (e.i., comparison only, extra sequences, or a complete study.)
- ✓ Why? An accurate description of each study performed determines how the case is reported.

MRI left hip + MRI right hip for comparison only = MRI left hip (only) is billed.

MRI pelvis + extra sequences of the hip = MRI pelvis (only) is billed.

MRI pelvis + MRI left hip + MRI right hip = MRI pelvis + MRI left hip + MRI right hip.

(Providing each study was medically necessary and complete studies of each were documented and performed.)

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.