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October 2012

Dear Insurance Carrier Medical Director:

It has come to our attention that urologists are being denied payment for fiducial devices to identify areas in the prostate for future radiation therapy.

In 2007, CPT code 55876 Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy guidance (eg, fiducial markers, dosimeter), prostate (via needle, any approach), single or multiple was established to report the placement of fiducial markers in the prostate.

When the CPT code was developed and subsequently valued by the AMA Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC), there were no practice expense inputs established to cover the costs of the markers. The parenthetical under CPT code 55876 states: **(Report supply of device separately)**. Accordingly, this parenthetical specifically states that physicians should be reimbursed separately for the markers/devices used when CPT 55876 is performed.

HCPCS code A4648 Tissue marker, implantable, any type, each was established in 2008 to report the devices associated with CPT code 55876.

Therefore, the American Urological Association requests that the carrier reconsider the denial and allow reimbursement for the fiducial markers based on invoice price submitted with the claim.

In addition, effective February 26, 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CM) Medicare issued a Pub 100-20 One-Time Notification, Transmittal 604 (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R604OTN.pdf>) that instructs Medicare payors to reimburse for A4648 when billed with 55876.

Policy:

When billed on a physician claim, HCPCS code A4648 is separately billable and payable as a supply when used in conjunction with CPT code 55876 (the placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy guidance (e.g., fiducial markers, dosimeter), prostate (via needle, any approach), single or multiple).

In the case of an appeal by a physician, all other correspondence should be directed to the medical office requesting the review of the denied claim.



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If you have any other questions about this coding recommendation, please contact Stephanie N. Stinchcomb, Senior Manager of Reimbursement and Regulation, at 866-746-4282, extension 3786.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Penson, M.D., MPH
Chair, Health Policy Council