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HEALTH AFFAIRS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Use of CPT Code 99199

The purpose of this memo is to announce new Military Health System (MHS) medical record coding policy.

There is no Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for the institutional component of an ambulatory procedure visit (APV). In order to bill, the Military Health System will use the CPT code 99199 to indicate the institutional component of an APV.

All MTFs must discontinue using the CPT code 99199 as an "unlisted" code on or before 30 September 2004. CPT defines 99199 as an "Unlisted special service, procedure or report." Most military treatment facilities (MTFs) do not use the CPT code 99199. A few MTFs have used the CPT code 99199 to track "unlisted" services (i.e., services that currently do not have a code), such as a pediatrician sedating a patient so a radiologist may do a diagnostic imaging procedure.

Effective 1 October 2004, to ensure correct billing, the MHS will only use the CPT code 99199 for APV data collection and billing. As the code is only for billing, there will not be a relative value unit associated with the CPT code 99199. As of 1 October 2004, using the CPT code 99199 in the MHS will mean "Institutional Component, Ambulatory Procedure Visit."

My point of contact for questions pertaining to the use of CPT code 99199 is Lt Col Jeanne Yoder at email: Jeanne.yoder@tma.osd.mil or telephone at (703)681-3492 x4068.

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