

IMAges NEWSLETTER



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Discounted 2023 medical coding books, order today!

IMA discounted 2023 medical coding books, order yours today! The Idaho Medical Association is pleased to offer substantial discounts on resource materials for AMA and Optum360° books for your office. Pre-order your CPT®, HCPCS, ICD-10 and other resource materials today! The discounted Coder's Bundle includes the 2023 CPT Professional Edition and the 2023 ICD-10-CM manual for one low price.

Most books can be ordered in electronic format and will become available on average 6-8 weeks prior to the hard copy titles being shipped! An order form with the most popular choices

is available on the IMA Website:
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Pre-order your book(s) today! Hard copy books will be shipped to you when they are available from the publisher. (Exact arrival dates are listed on the order form if available). E-books will be sent directly from the AMA upon receipt of payment. (Please include your email address on the order form.)

Contact Rebecca (rebecca@idmed.org) at the IMA with any questions or call (208) 344-7888.

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Cigna Modifier -25 reimbursement policy update

By IMA Reimbursement Consultant Nicole Benson, Gill Compliance Solutions

Modifier -25 is once again in the spotlight and under the insurance radar, and this time Cigna has revised their reimbursement policy for modifier -25 review effective on August 13, 2022. In May, Cigna issued a letter stating, "We will require the submission of office notes with claims submitted with evaluation and management (E&M) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes 99212, 99213, 99214, and 99215 and modifier -25 when a minor procedure is billed". Cigna's policy is addressing National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) bundling edits directed at the use of modifier -25 when performing a procedural service on the same day as an evaluation and management service.

Modifier -25 is defined as a **significantly, separately identifiable evaluation and management service by the same physician, or qualified health care professional, on the same date as a procedure or other service** and is used to bypass a claim's edit as outlined in the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI). The modifier requires documentation to show that two separate services were performed during the same visit to be reimbursed for both. Bear in mind that minor procedures carry a pre and postoperative component on the day of service. Credit cannot be given to the evaluation and management service for performance of these components.

Common Mistakes When Reporting Modifier -25:

E/M services reported strictly for the evaluation and decision for the minor procedure to be performed on the same day.

- Separately addressed problems / conditions not showing evaluation, meaning that there needs to be a history of present illness or an interval history over the complaint(s) / condition(s) and a medically necessary exam when appropriate.
- Simply reporting additional conditions in the assessment without evaluation, apart from the minor procedure indication, does not carry note correlation in establishing medical necessity.
- The same problem / condition without additional management apart from the minor procedure and postoperative follow-up does not support a significantly identifiable service.
- Separate problem(s) with an interval history or HPI that are missing assessment information and subsequent management in support of a separately identifiable service.

Coding Tips:

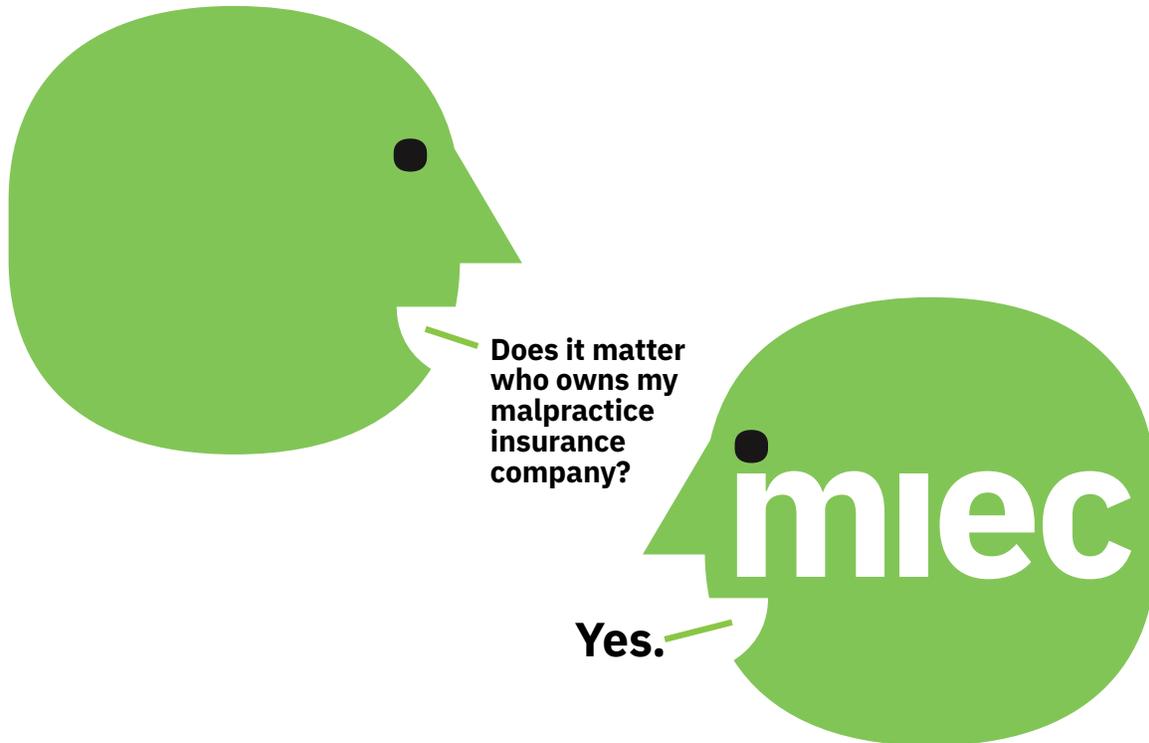
- Above and beyond the usual preoperative decision-making and postoperative care associated with the procedure or service performed
- Different diagnosis codes are NOT required
- Documentation is "key" to substantiating the relevant criteria for the E/M service
- Private payer policy verification over modifier -25 is recommended

Modifier -25 Example:

1. A patient presents for an office visit with a chief complaint of rotator cuff syndrome and recurrent pain. The provider reports 99213 and appends modifier -25 along with CPT 20610 (injection of major joint) for the minor procedure performed in the office.

- The joint injection has 0 global days. Per NCCI edits, the pre-op and post-op work, or E/M portion, is included in the payment of the joint injection procedure. Since the patient is not being treated for another medical condition and/or additional management over the complaint is not indicated, it is inappropriate to bill an E/M service.

Cigna's policy change is directed at review of established E/M encounters reported with minor procedures and modifier -25 only. The required office notes must be submitted via the dedicated fax number, 833-462-1360, while claims should continue to be submitted electronically and must have the attachment indicator selected. Policy updates are also available on the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website, CignaforHCP.com. Or if you need more information and guidance on modifier -25 use, please reach out to IMA at rebecca@idmed.org



As a reciprocal exchange, MIEC is entirely owned by the policyholders we protect. With no external shareholders to satisfy, this ownership model allows us to return profits to whom they rightfully belong—MIEC policyholders. We do not inflate our surplus or tie up profits in nonguaranteed deferred retirement plans, we give it back. Over the last 45 years we have put more than \$446 million back in the pockets of our policyholders. To learn more about the benefits of being an MIEC policyholder, or to apply, visit miec.com or call **800.227.4527**.

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Medicaid and CHIP enrollment unwinding messaging tool kit

Overview from CMS: In March 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) temporarily waived certain Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) requirements and conditions. The easing of these rules helped prevent people with Medicaid and CHIP in all 50 states from losing their health coverage during the pandemic. However, states will soon be required to restart Medicaid and CHIP eligibility reviews. According to some estimates, when states resume these reviews, up to 15 million people could lose their current Medicaid or CHIP coverage through a process called “unwinding.” It is unclear at this point how many Idahoans will be impacted.

CMS will give the states a 60 days’ notice prior to the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). This will likely be extended to mid-October. This means that the “start date” for states to begin Medicaid redeterminations would potentially be mid-August. Regular annual redeterminations are ongoing, and if someone is under “protected” Medicaid, they will not lose it while the PHE is in effect. Note on telehealth: The current telehealth rules will extend for 151 days post-PHE, so if the PHE ends in October, these rules will extend through mid-March.

There are two phases to prepare for:

Phase 1: Prepare for the renewal process and educate Medicaid and CHIP enrollees about the upcoming changes.

- Timeframe: Now until the end of the PHE announcement

Phase 2: When CMS gives Medicaid the notice of the PHE ending, clinics will need to message to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries of the necessary steps to renew coverage, and transition to other coverage if they’re no longer eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. Watch for more information on this phase in the future.

Key messaging patients need to know - PHASE 1:

1. Important changes are coming to your Medicaid or CHIP eligibility – If you or a family member has health coverage through Idaho Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Plan there is important steps you will soon need to take. During the Covid-19 pandemic, federal rules were put into place that ensured no one would be disenrolled from Medicaid or CHIP. Once the Biden Administration announces the end of the pandemic states will review eligibility for program participants.
2. What does this mean for me? This means that once the White House announces that the Public Health Emergency is over, you or a family member may be disenrolled from Medicaid or CHIP if you don’t complete a redetermination. Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) will contact you if a redetermination is needed. However, if you no longer are eligible to receive Medicaid, you could qualify for health plans through Your Health Idaho which would help pay for the cost.
3. What should I do next? When the announcement is made, DHW will send out notices with instructions to all families who need to complete a redetermination. Sometimes DHW can make a benefit determination without talking to you. It is important to double check that DHW made the correct redetermination process for you. if you believe you are still eligible for benefits, please contact DHW.
 - Update your contact information – Make sure <https://idalink.idaho.gov/> has your current mailing address, phone number, email, or other contact information. This way, they’ll be able to contact you about your Medicaid or CHIP coverage.
4. This process will not take place until the Biden Administration announces the end of the Public Health Emergency. This is different than Idaho announcing the end of the STATE public health emergency. The rules tied to Medicaid coverage during the pandemic are from the federal government, so only an announcement from the White House will start this redetermination process. Watch for more information coming as it becomes available.

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*SBA Boise District Office

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American Medical Association resources

Private Practice Learning Collaborative: E/M Documentation Burden Reduction

The American Medical Association (AMA) has launched a new learning collaborative opportunity for private practice physicians designed to help implement actionable changes that can quickly increase their practice's efficiency. Each eight-week session in the Private Practice Simple Solutions series will focus on a single topic. Physicians will be able to access a pre-recorded didactic presentation and a discussion board (NOTE: the discussion board requires individual registration to access this closed community). The discussion board runs throughout the entirety of the eight weeks, offering opportunities to interact with fellow cohort members and ask questions of subject matter experts who oversee the sessions. A second pre-recorded presentation will follow the first, focusing on the common obstacles or questions identified on the discussion board. The first session, which provides insights on using the AMA STEPS Forward® E/M Documentation Burden Reduction Toolkit as a guide, will be released on July 7. The second recording will be released on Aug. 16. <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/private-practices/ama-private-practice-simple-solutions>

Accelerating Behavioral Health Integration Through Telehealth

The AMA is hosting an interactive session on accelerating behavioral health integration through telehealth on June 21. Participants will learn about the opportunities and challenges of incorporating technology to advance more coordinated and equitable behavioral health care, as well as practical solutions stakeholders across the health care ecosystem can pursue to advance digitally enabled BHI. The session will feature experts from Penn Medicine and the Department of Veteran Affairs, who will discuss their BHI models, how digital tools have been incorporated, and the comprehensive value it has generated. <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/accelerating-behavioral-health-integration-through-telehealth>

IMA Education Webinar Series

**Challenges & Changes: TCM, CCM, ACP, PCM Coding Rules
Gill Compliance Solutions (1 CEU)**

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 12:15 – 1:15 pm (MST)

Register today to join IMA reimbursement consultant Nicole Benson, Gill Compliance Solutions on August 17, 2022. Don't miss this valuable and informative webinar! This webinar will be presented via Zoom, dial-in instructions as well as any presentation materials will be emailed to you the day before the webinar. A registration form is available at idmed.org. Questions? Contact the IMA at 208-344-7888 or rebecca@idmed.org

Pre-order the 2022 IMA Directory of Idaho Physicians today!

Pre-order your complimentary copy of the 2022 IMA Directory of Idaho Physicians!

IMA is happy to provide the Directory as a free IMA membership benefit; you can also order additional copies for a discounted price of \$40. Copies for non-member cost \$125.

The Directory provides the office address and telephone number of every physician currently practicing in Idaho.

This comprehensive physician reference also features listings by location of practice and specialty, plus a directory of Idaho hospitals. This valuable information isn't available anywhere else.

Order will be shipped soon! To pre-order your 2022 Directory today, visit:
bit.ly/IMA2022directory

Parenting as a physician: It takes a lot of patience

Finding work-life balance during the COVID-19 pandemic has required parents to constantly recalibrate, shifting the demands of parenting to meet the needs of their employers. Burnout rates remain particularly high among physicians, and those who also take on the responsibilities of caring for their children face a unique set of challenges. This panel discussion webinar at noon on June 21 features multiple physician parents and will provide tips on how to set limits, balancing family life as a physician, simply finding the time, and best practices for managing family activities.
<https://bit.ly/STEPS-062122>

Medical Practice Opportunities

Volunteers for Pocatello Free Clinic

Non-profit Pocatello Free Clinic needs volunteer providers (physician, PA or APRN) to help provide primary care for low-income patients with no Medicaid, Medicare or insurance. The clinic is usually staffed by a part-time MD and PA but we need some help for summer coverage. Volunteers could do a 3-4 hour shift once a month or quarter, or other arrangements are possible. If questions/interest, please contact Medical Director Georgia Milan, MD gmilan8688@gmail.com 406-493-7562 or Cindy Bunde, PA cbunde@pocatellofreeclinic.com 208-251-1447.

Centurion Health Site Medical Director

Healthcare beyond patient care, healthcare for humanity. Centurion Health is proud to be the new provider of healthcare services to the Idaho Department of Correction. We are seeking a Site Medical Director for the following opportunity:

- Idaho Maximum Security Institution- Kuna, ID- Part-time

Help us change lives- one patient at a time. Contact Natelie Blasius to learn more: natelie@teamcenturion.com 928.249.1930

**To place a Medical Practice Opportunities Classified Advertisement,
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or by email at rebecca@idmed.org.**



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Calendar of Events

August 17, 2022

IMA Education Webinar

Challenges and Changes: TCM, CCM, ACP, PCM Coding Rules (1 CEU)

12:15 – 1:30 pm (MT)

Additional information and registration forms for webinars
are available at www.idmed.org

Idaho Medical Association
Unifying and advocating for
Idaho physicians

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