



Weekly Auditing and Compliance Tip



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September 1, 2017

2017 Physical Therapy Evaluation & Management Codes

As you know, 2017 brought us new evaluation and management codes for physical and occupational therapy.

Now that we have had eight months to implement these codes, it is time to look at how you are doing through an audit of the documentation. When looking at the documentation, all of the basics of documentation did not change and are still required:

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- Date of service
- Reason for encounter (establishes medical necessity)
- Relevant history and exam
- Patient's progress, response to treatment, changes in treatment
- Diagnoses
- Plan of care
- Legible identity and signature of provider

What has changed is documentation required for the evaluation and re-evaluation of the patient for

physical therapy coding. Prior to 2017, the coding was simple and there were no specific



Wishing everyone a safe and happy Labor Day!
The NAMAS office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 4 in observance. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 5



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was simple and there were no specific documentation requirements. In 2017 CPT introduced three levels of evaluation codes for Physical Therapy and three levels for Occupational Therapy. These include three initial evaluation levels and one level for a re-evaluation. In addition to the new codes, CPT added specific instructions as to what is included in each code.

Translation: What needs to be documented to meet that level of service.

At minimum, documentation should include:

- History
- Exam
- Clinical Decision Making
- Development of Plan of Care

Sound familiar? The components sound similar to the codes in the Evaluation and Management Chapter of CPT; however, they are quite different. CPT guidelines do a great job in detailing what is required for each code and provide definitions to many of the terms they use in this section. Auditors should read these guidelines carefully before auditing 2017 physical therapy charts.

The Marshfield Clinic provided the industry with an audit sheet for E/M codes from the Evaluation and Management Chapter. Auditors should prepare a similar audit sheet to record their results for physical therapy. The American Physical Therapy Association has a very helpful reference table in grid format on their website. You can easily adapt that grid into an audit sheet/data collection tool for your reviews. The example below is for Physical Therapy and can be easily modified for Occupational Therapy auditing.

Though Medicare (CMS) has decided during the implementation year of 2017 to pay the same rate for each code; be assured this is only temporary and it is important that your documentation support the level you are coding and you are submitting the appropriate level of service. In other words, don't take the easy way out and code the same level for all of your patients because the payment is the same for all three codes. Medicare is analyzing the data you submit and future payments will be based on the 2017 data submitted. Always accurately and completely document the service provided and submit the appropriate code.

The American Physical Therapy Association has published a helpful Quick Guide to the 3 Levels of Physical Therapy Evaluation. This guide includes a

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For added convenience, NAMAS accepts PayPal, PayPal Credit, quarterly and monthly payments of membership dues.



Our **Medical Auditing Bootcamp** will train you to become a medical auditor. Learn the principles of auditing, compliance regulations, and how to perform the daily duties of an auditor.

Our **2-day ONSITE** Medical Auditing Bootcamps are scheduled as follows:

November 16 & 17: Tallahassee, FL
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We also offer this bootcamp as a **5 week LIVE ONLINE Saturday course**. Each class is 3 hours and 15 minutes in length. Our next online course begins September 23, 2017!

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Our **2- Day E&M Auditing Bootcamp** is an accelerated auditing training specific to E&M auditing.

chart summarizing the requirements for reporting physical therapy services. [Click here to access this information](#)

This Week's Audit Tip
Written By:

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CPMA

Kathy is the Senior Vice President
of Coding and Documentation Services for
Panacea



Learn about audit policies, get clarity on documentation guidelines, medical decision making, medical necessity and more. Plus, during this training program you will have the opportunity **earn our NEW CREDENTIAL - Certified Evaluation and Management Auditor (CEMA)!**

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October 10 & 11: Phoenix, AZ
November 7 & 8: Cincinnati, OH
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And more!

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**Join NAMAS for the 9th Annual Auditing &
Compliance Conference**
December 2017 in Orlando, FL!



Conference Information

Pre-Conference: Tuesday, December 5
Conference: Wednesday, December 6 - Friday,
December 8
Venue: Loews Sapphire Falls Resort
Orlando, FL

[Click Here to View the Conference Agenda](#)

Learn from the best in the industry, network with your peers and visit with our hand picked group of industry relevant exhibitors all in the gorgeous Caribbean inspired backdrop of the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort

**Conference Pricing - Available Through
September 30, 2017 Only**

NAMAS Member

Conference Only: \$1145
Pre-Conference & Conference: \$1395

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Conference Only: \$1245

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CloneSleuth will also be exhibiting at the NAMAS
9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference

**NAMAS 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance
Conference Speaker Spotlight**



**Speaker
Spotlight**

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This year, we are proud to offer a limited number of VIP package add-ons available to all attendees at the nominal rate of \$129. Add on the VIP experience to your conference registration today!

As a Conference VIP, you'll receive:

- A VIP registration line for faster check-in
- A VIP branded name badge to wear during conference sessions
- Registration to our EXCLUSIVE VIP Brunch & Session occurring the morning of Wednesday, December 6 before general session begins. This exclusive training will be presented by Frank Cohen
- Admission to our VIP ONLY EVENT - occurring the evening of Thursday, December 7. Enjoy a relaxing evening of entertainment, dancing, food and networking in the Caribbean inspired Sapphire Falls Resort
- Bonus NAMAS Swag
- Additional \$500 in NAMAS Bucks! Use NAMAS Bucks to bid on a variety of prizes available in our exhibit hall

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SHANNON DECONDA,
Partner,
DoctorsManagement
President, NAMAS

During the NAMAS 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance, Shannon DeConda will be presenting the following sessions:

- On the New Horizons for Auditing & Compliance
- Incident- to Smackdown
- Medical Necessity and its Effects on Your Documentation
- Creating a Gray Areas Policy for your Organization
- Stump the Healthcare Professional

Each week, we will spotlight a conference speaker and the session(s) he/she will be presenting. Join us for this year's conference December 6-8, 2017 in Orlando, FL at the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort! Click the image above to learn more about conference



Upcoming Webinar Sessions

NAMAS is proud to offer the following webinars in September

How to Be Decisive About Medical Decision Making (Auditing Webinar Series)

Speaker: Grant Huang
September 5, 2017
2pm EST

How to Audit Modifiers (How to Webinar Series)

Speaker: Aimee Wilcox
September 12, 2017
2pm EST

Ransomware Detection, Prevention & Correction (Compliance Webinar Series)

Speaker: Rachel Roase
September 19, 2017
2pm EST

Hands On: Auditing Modifiers (Hands On Webinar Series)



NAMAS 2018 Conference Input Survey

Our annual conference is our biggest event of the year, and we understand that many of you travel a great deal to attend our event. We take a great deal of time and consideration to carefully select our conference locations to appeal to the majority of audience.

We invite you to take a brief survey to provide your feedback regarding locations for our annual conference

**Please click the image above to participate
Your feedback is greatly appreciated!**



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(Namias On Webinar Series)

Speaker: Pam Vanderbilt
September 26, 2017
2pm EST

If you are interested in registering for any of the above webinars, please email us at namas@namas.co

NAMAS Calendar of Events



Click the image above to view our monthly calendar



Our weekly auditing & compliance tip emails are available to anyone who could benefit from this information.

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