



NAMAS Weekly Auditing & Compliance Tips

December 16, 2016

2017 CPT Updates Bring Big Changes to Physical Therapy

For 2017, the new physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and athletic training (AT) evaluation codes are the first major changes to the physical medicine and rehab codes in over twenty years. The new evaluation codes (97161-97168) replace the current PT and OT evaluation codes 97001 and 97003. The new evaluation codes are based on patient complexity and level of clinical decision making (low, moderate or high complexity). Code set 97161-97164 is used for PT, while 97165-97168 is for OT.

In terms of physical therapy, at a minimum, physical therapy evaluations should include the following:

- History
- Examination
- Clinical decision making
- Development of plan of care

As for 97164, this would be reported for performance of patient re-evaluation that is based on an established and current plan of care.

Below are the definitions of the body regions and systems that CPT has defined:

- **Body regions:** head, neck, back, lower extremities, upper extremities, and trunk
- **Body systems:** musculoskeletal, neuromuscular,



We'd like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

The NAMAS office will be closed on the following days:

Friday, December 23
Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2

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cardiovascular pulmonary, and integumentary.

- **A review of body systems** includes the following:
 - For musculoskeletal: the assessment of gross symmetry, gross range of motion, gross strength, height, and weight.
 - For neuromuscular: a general assessment of gross coordinated movement (e.g., balance, gait, locomotion, transfers, and transitions) and motor function (motor control and motor learning)
 - For cardiovascular pulmonary: the assessment of heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and edema
 - For integumentary: the assessment of pliability (texture), presence of scar formation, skin color, and skin integrity

CPT also states that "A review of any of the body systems also includes the assessment of the ability to make needs known, consciousness, orientation (person, place, and time), expected emotional/behavioral responses, and learning preferences (e.g., learning barriers, education needs)."

- **Personal factors:** Factors that include sex, age, coping styles, social background, education, progression, past and current experience, overall behavior pattern, character, and other factors that influence how disability is experienced by the individual. Personal factors that exist but do not impact the physical therapy plan of care are not to be considered, when selecting a level of service.

There will be no change in the payment rates from 2016 into 2017 and no change between the code levels. Per the 2017 Medicare Final rule, "We proposed a work RVU of 1.20 for both the PT and the OT evaluation groups of services. We proposed this work RVU because we believed it best represents the typical PT and OT evaluation. This is the value recommended by the HCPAC for the OT moderate complexity evaluation and nearly the same work RVU for corresponding PT evaluation (1.18). Additionally, a work RVU of 1.20 is the longstanding value for the current evaluation codes, CPT codes 97001 and 97003, and thus, assures work neutrality without reliance on particular assumptions about utilization, which we believed was the intent of the HCPAC recommendation."

Besides physical and occupational therapy changes a few other big changes to CPT for 2017 include: the separate reporting of moderate sedation, changes to the requirements for chronic care management, expansions to telehealth services, vaccines, laboratory testing, and many more.

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

NAMAS Calendar of Events



Click the image above to view our monthly calendar

Upcoming Webinars

NAMAS is proud to present the following webinars in November



The Practice Manager's Role in Maintaining Compliance

Speaker: Gene Good
December 20, 2016
2pm EST

E&M Encounter Review

Speaker: Shannon DeConda
December 17, 2016
2pm EST

With 148 new codes, 81 deletions, and 498 revisions- 2017 is shaping up to be a whole new year!

This Week's Audit Tip Written By:

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Misty is a Compliance Consultant for our parent organization, DoctorsManagement, LLC

NAMAS Members: Watch your Email for Registration Links

Non-Members: Email namas@namas.co to learn how to attend these webinars

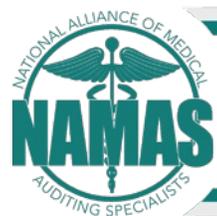


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8TH ANNUAL
Auditing & Compliance
CONFERENCE 2016

2016 Salary Survey



Each year, NAMAS collects data from auditors about their

employment as auditors.

Thank You

We'd like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of our speakers, staff, exhibitors, and attendees who made this year's conference a success!

If you weren't able to make it this year, we hope you consider joining us next year in **Orlando, Florida!** Our 2017 pre-conference will be December 5, and conference will run from December 6 through December 8, 2017.

[Click here to secure your spot in 2017 with just a \\$50 deposit!](#)

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Too Many Audits Stacking Up?



Let our team help with the backlog & keep you current!

DoctorsManagement & NAMAS employ Senior Management Auditors with no less than 10 years of experience. Our team can perform your audits or offer hands-on assistance to your auditing team.

Please take a few moments to complete our survey. Entering your email address at the end of the survey will enter you into a drawing for a chance to win one of several prizes:

\$100 Visa Gift Card

\$25 Starbucks Gift Card

and our

GRAND PRIZE

is a scholarship

to attend our 9th Annual

NAMAS Auditing & Compliance

Conference!

Click the image above to complete the survey. This survey will close on March 15, 2017 and winners will be selected and contacted by a NAMAS representative.

WEBINAR

Our 2017 Webinar Schedule is Now Available!

[Click Here to view the schedule](#)

Webinar subjects, dates, and speakers and subject to change without notice.

Complimentary Tip of the Week

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

If you know someone who would like to receive these emails, invite them to sign.

We are available to assist with:

- Valuation Audits
- Pre-Bill Audits
- Retrospective Audits
- Customized Training

To schedule your audit or training, contact NAMAS at 877-418-5564 or via email at namas@namas.co

Click the image above to be added to our email list!

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