



NAMAS Weekly Auditing & Compliance Tips

September 16, 2016

Measure Up: Wound Measurements & Debridement Auditing

Wound care can be a tricky arena for auditors, but if there's any one element that providers tend to skimp on, it's wound measurements.

Getting wound measurements right is crucial, but providers can sometimes be slapdash with documenting their measurements. Let's review what's required in terms of measurements for the most common wound care procedures, excisional (e.g. 11042) and selective debridement (e.g. 97597).

Getting it right

Wound measurements as part of wound description:

1. The wounds should be numbered when more than one wound is observed and described.
2. Each wound should have measurements of length, width, depth in centimeters.

Wound measurements as part of op note for debridement:

1. The wound measurements should be given both pre-procedure and post-procedure. This indicates whether the procedure expanded the wound margins (helpful in supporting excisional debridement).
2. The total amount of tissue debrided should be listed separately from the wound measurements.
3. The type or types of tissue removed should be listed.

This is also helpful in distinguishing between excisional and selective debridement.

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We offer 4 membership levels- choose the one that best suits your needs!

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Top mistakes to look for

Now that we've covered proper wound care documentation, let's take a look at some examples where the provider doesn't get it right.

- **Total amount of tissue debrided isn't specified.** The physician records pre-op measurements, but won't list how much tissue was debrided. This is highly problematic when more than one wound is debrided. If there are five wounds but only three are debrided, it's very difficult to audit the debridement codes reported.
- **Type of tissue removed isn't specified.** This can result in the debridement being non-billable. The type or types of tissue removed must always be described.
- **Wound isn't identified.** When the patient has more than one wound (e.g. multiple numbered wounds are described), but the op note simply states "surgical debridement of wounds was undertaken utilizing a #15 scalpel blade ..." then the debridement codes reported cannot be accurately audited.

Units of debridement

The most common debridement codes (11042-11047 for excisional, 97597-97598 for selective) consist of a primary code that covers the first 20 cm², and then add-on codes that cover each additional 20 cm². This makes measurements even more crucial to ensure accurate reporting of the number of units.

Any amount of surface over the 20 cm² limit allows the reporting of an additional unit of the add-on code. For example, if a note for selective debridement states that "20.3 cm² of tissue was debrided of superficial slough from the right medial calf," this is reported with 97597 and 97598.

Also, remember that there is a maximum daily limit on units of service for all debridement codes. This limit depends on code and on the place of service. The limit is always lower in the outpatient setting, because it would be unusual for such a large surface area to be debrided in the outpatient setting.

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NAMAS Medical Auditing BootCamp®

Our onsite or online training program will not only prepare you to sit for the medical auditing certification test, but will prepare you for a career as a medical auditor.

As a bootcamp attendee, you will receive the NAMAS Auditor's Resource & Prep Guide, 16 AAPC CEUs, AND a 1 year NAMAS membership!

Our **onsite** schedule is as follows:

October 6-7: Birmingham, AL

November 3-4: Charlotte, NC

December 5-6: Orlando, FL

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For those with a basic foundation of E&M auditing, or experienced E&M auditors just looking for a refresher, our 1-day E&M Auditing BootCamp is for you!

MDM? Medical Necesity? Guidelines?

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**This Week's Audit Tip Written By:
Grant Huang, CPC, CPMA**

Grant is director of content at our parent company, Medical Billing University.



company DoctorsManagement, LLC. He has worked for years as a healthcare regulatory analyst and producer of educational content. He is also a certified coder and auditor.

We Want to See You In Orlando!



You're Invited to Join us at the 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference

Dates: Pre-Conference: Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Conference: Wednesday, December 7- Friday December 9, 2016

Venue: Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, Orlando, FL

This is the ONLY conference designed for medical auditors and compliance professionals!

Earn Up to 21.5 AAPC CEUs good toward Core A, CPMA, CPCO & CEMC certifications



December 6-9, 2016 | Orlando, FL | Loews Portofino Bay Hotel

Where better to be in December than in beautiful Orlando, Florida learning from the best in the business, networking with your peers, and **earning up to 21.5 AAPC CEUs?**

There's more good news! **NEW FOR 2016-** we've partnered with RACmonitor to provide a **FACILITY AUDITING track** during both pre-conference and conference!

RACmonitor

Attend one of our upcoming **ONLINE** or **ONSITE** sessions:

1 day **online** session on October 24
Or, attend one of our 1-day **onsite** sessions:

October 6, 2016: Covington, LA
November 15, 2016: Columbus, OH

[Click Here to Learn More About The NAMAS E&M Auditing BootCamp](#)

Weekly Tip Sponsor



NAMAS Calendar of Events



Click the image above to view our monthly calendar

Upcoming Webinars

NAMAS is proud to present the following webinars in September



Attendees can select their pre-conference and conference sessions from any one of the following tracks: Physician-Based Auditing, E&M Auditing, Facility-Based Auditing, and Physician-Based Compliance!

Don't delay in registering- Lock in your conference rate with only a \$50 deposit!

Click Here to View the Conference Agenda

Register Now

NAMAS Conference Speaker Spotlight



Defending Yourself Against Commercial Insurer Recoupments

Speaker: Tom Force
September 20, 2016
2pm EST

E&M Encounter Review

Speaker: Pam Vanderbilt
September 27, 2016
2pm EST

NAMAS Members: Watch your Email for Registration Links

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

Upcoming Complimentary Webinars

DoctorsManagement & NAMAS are proud to present the following complimentary webinars

FREE
Webinars

E&M Coding for the Non-Coding Professional

Speaker: Shannon DeConda
Thursday, October 6, 2016
2:00pm - 3:30pm EST

[Click Here to Register for This Session](#)

Assessing E&M Risk

Speaker: Frank Cohen
Thursday, October 20, 2016
2:00pm - 3:00pm EST

[Click Here to Register for This Session](#)

E&M Audits & Appeals

Speaker: Sean Weiss

Thursday, November 3, 2016
2:00pm - 3:00pm EST

[Click Here to Register for This Session](#)

Email namas@namas.co with questions

Speaker Spotlight

Meet our speakers for the



John Burns

CPC, CEMC, CPC-I,
CPMA

President, JFB Consulting

Conference Sessions:



NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference

December 6-9, 2016
Orlando, FL
Loews Portofino Bay Hotel

View the full conference
agenda & register today
www.namasconference.com



- Auditing the Surgical Package
- Hands on: Auditing the Surgical Package
- Q&A with the Compliance Panel

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Our attorneys have established national reputations in the areas of:

- Health Care Law, including ZPIC, MAC, RAC and CERT, HIPAA, False Claims, Stark and AntiKickback analyses, OSHA, healthcare corporate transactions and more.
- Regulatory compliance including "GAP" analysis of healthcare practices, compliance training, "mock" audits of claims and services, compliance plan creation, periodic review, and implementation.
- Dental Law, including: dental compliance plans, dental compliance training, dental coding and billing, State Board of Dental Examiner representation, and more
- Business & Transactions, namely: mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, real estate, partnerships and LLC transactions, commercial contracts, and more

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.

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

Stay Informed

Stay up to date with important news and announcements from NAMAS. Follow our social media pages to ensure you don't miss a beat!



[Do You Have an Audit Tip Idea?](#)

- False Claims Act, including: Qui Tam cases, civil false claims act cases, and overpayments

Contact LilesParker for your complimentary initial consultation.

**To discuss your needs, please call
800-475-1906**

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.

We can 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

We want to hear from you! If you have a suggestion for a topic you'd like featured in our weekly auditing tip, let us know! Send us an email to namas@namas.co

Do You Want to Be Published?

If you have an auditing article you'd like to be featured in our weekly tip, send it to namas@namas.co for review. If we use your article, we'll send you a \$25 Visa Gift Card!

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