



NAMAS Weekly Auditing & Compliance Tips

October 21, 2016

Auditing Same Day Psychotherapy and E&M Services: The Time Trap

A problem-focused E/M service and the provision of psychotherapy on the same date of service are both separately payable, when medically necessary.

[Click Here to Listen to This Week's Audit Tip](#)



A typical scenario is when the provider treats the patient's diagnoses by documenting the appropriate level of history, exam and medical decision making - such as a decision to change medications, or even keep medications the same - and also provides psychotherapy services for the patient.

When auditing these services, here are some key things to remember. First, the E/M service is selected first based on the previously mentioned history, exam and medical decision-making. The documentation used to support the E/M service may not be used to support the psychotherapy service.

The psychotherapy service is a time-based code, and none of the time spent on the E/M service can be counted toward the psychotherapy service. From a documentation perspective, providers should be encouraged to specifically document that the time in the note is spent on psychotherapy.



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

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Typical psychotherapy documentation would include a mental status exam, description of the type of psychotherapy provided, the patient's current functional status and any improvements or decline noted in the patient's condition.

These services are billed with 90833 as an add-on code to the E/M service for a psychotherapy service of 30 minutes, 90836 for a service of 45 minutes and 9088 for a service of 60 minutes. Using the rules associated with time-based billing, documented time of 15 minutes or fewer is not supported; 16 to 37 minutes is supported as 90833; 38-52 minutes is supported as 90836 and 53 or more minutes is supported as 90838.

Prolonged services are not separately reportable when a psychotherapy service and E/M service is billed on the same date of service. The diagnosis for the E/M service and the psychotherapy service may be the same.

Remember, the time documented must solely support the psychotherapy service. When the provider's documentation of time also reflects elements of the E/M service and the note doesn't clearly distinguish the psychotherapy time, then no time can definitively be credited to the psychotherapy service. In these instances, psychotherapy billing would not be supported because there must be documentation of the time.

Two more tips to remember:

- When an E/M service is not being billed, the psychotherapy codes are 90832 for 30 minutes, 90834 for 45 minutes and 90837 for 60 minutes. These codes may not be billed with an E/M service.
- Even though these psychotherapy services describe psychotherapy with patient and/or family member, the patient must be present for at least some of the service. Documentation showing only counseling for the family cannot be billed with these codes. CPT code 90846 describes family psychotherapy without the patient present.

This Week's Audit Tip Written By:

Scott Kraft, CPC, CPMA

Scott is an Auditing Specialist for our parent organization, DoctorsManagement



PayPal, PayPal Credit, quarterly and monthly payments of membership dues.



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 next **onsite** bootcamp will be:

December 5-6: Orlando, FL

We've also added additional **online** Saturday classes to our calendar

Click Here to Learn More About The NAMAS Medical Auditing BootCamp



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 Necessity? Guidelines? Audit Policies? We'll cover all of this AND more in this training program

Attend our next onsite session:

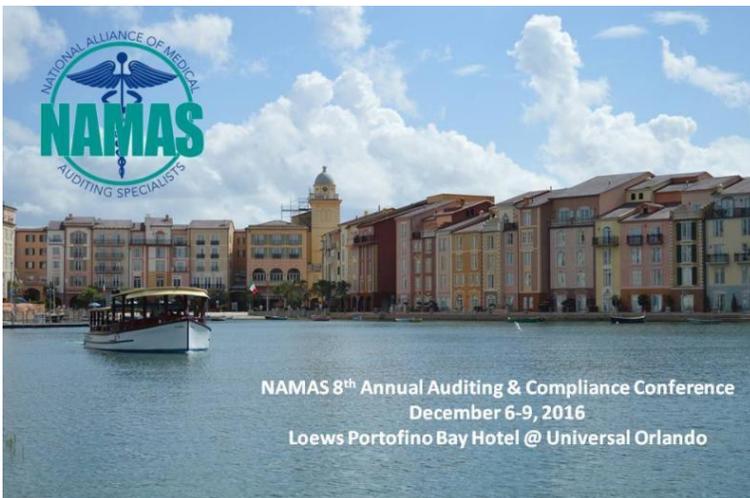
November 17, 2016: Columbus, OH

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



8TH ANNUAL
Auditing & Compliance
CONFERENCE 2016

Join us in beautiful Orlando, FL for the **NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference**



NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference
December 6-9, 2016
Loews Portofino Bay Hotel @ Universal Orlando

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 Over 20 AAPC CEUs good toward Core A, CPMA, CPCO & CEMC certifications

Where better to be in December than in beautiful Orlando, Florida learning from the best in the business, networking with your peers, and **earning over 20 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!

Weekly Tip Sponsor



In partnership with RACmonitor, NAMAS invites you to attend the **ONLY** conference created specifically for healthcare auditors and compliance professionals - the **NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference** this December in Orlando, FL!

Reserve your spot today and have the opportunity to select your conference sessions among a variety of tracks: physician auditing, E&M auditing, physician compliance and facility auditing!

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



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!

Our 8th Annual Conference Has Gone Green!

We're proud to be a paperless conference, offering attendees the opportunity to download their session handouts electronically prior to conference



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

Speaker Spotlight
Meet our speakers for the



**Jason Stephens,
M.A., Ed.S.**

Management Consultant,
Director of Consulting
Business Partners & Vendors
DoctorsMangaement

Conference Sessions:

Finding a New Job: Tips from a Recruiter

Speaker: Carol Fox
November 1, 2016
2pm EST

Auditing Rural Health Services Speaker:

Cathy Bowden
November 8, 2016
2pm EST

E&M Encounter Review Speaker TBD

November 15, 2016
2pm EST

The 2016 OIG Target List Update Speaker:

Robert Liles
November 22, 2016
2pm EST

NAMAS Members: Watch your Email for Registration Links

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



During the month of October, fight breast cancer with your NAMAS membership!

For each new or renewed membership during the month of October, NAMAS will donate \$10 to the Breast Cancer Research Fund.

Even if you don't need to renew your membership at this time but would like to participate, NAMAS will renew your membership from the current termination date, so no membership time is lost.

To renew your membership, contact us at namas@namas.co!

Complimentary
of Week

NAMAS 8th Annual
Auditing & Compliance
Conference
Orlando, FL | December 6-9, 2016

View the full conference agenda &
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Strategies for
Improving Process
Efficiency in the
Medical Practice

Tip 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!

UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER CONTEST



We're excited to announce that during our annual conference, NAMAS will be hosting its first annual **Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest!**

During our exhibitor reception (on the evening of Wednesday, December 7th), all attendees are welcome to don their ugliest holiday attire. Our group of exhibitors and speakers will serve as judges and **the attendee with the ugliest attire will win a scholarship to attend our 2017 conference for free!**

Start preparing your ugly holiday outfit now!

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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

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!



