

# **APS Medical Billing Client Services Update**

Date: January 15, 2009

Re: New Prostate Saturation Biopsy Pathology Codes

Effective January 1, 2009, CMS has implemented four new HCPCS codes. They are “G” codes and are to be used to report Prostate Saturation biopsies when submitted for pathologic gross and microscopic evaluation. Since this type of procedure can produce from 1-60 biopsies, the four new codes are:

- G0416 - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination for prostate needle saturation biopsy sampling, 1-20 specimens
- G0417 - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination for prostate needle saturation biopsy sampling, 21-40 specimens
- G0418 - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination for prostate needle saturation biopsy sampling, 41-60
- G0419 - Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination for prostate needle saturation biopsy sampling, greater than 60 specimens

Only Medicare patients having Prostate Saturation biopsies submitted will be assigned a “G” code. All other prostate biopsies will be reported with CPT code 88305 (Surgical pathology, gross and microscopic examination; prostate, needle biopsy), such as needle biopsies and TUR (Transurethral resection). Even though prostate saturation biopsies could be differentiated by the number of specimens submitted, the only way to guarantee the coding of prostate biopsies accurately will be by the surgical procedure code. The choices of CPT codes for Prostate biopsies are:

- 55700 - Biopsy, prostate; needle or punch, single or multiple, any approach
- 55705 - incisional, any approach
- 55706 - (replaces Category III code 0137T [Biopsy, prostate, needle, saturation sampling for prostate mapping]) - Biopsies, prostate, needle, transperineal, stereotactic template guided saturation sampling, including imaging guidance.

Following are CMS' payment rates:

<b>HCPCS Code</b>	<b>CMS -26</b>	<b>CMS TC</b>	<b>CMS Global</b>
G0416 (1-20 spec)	\$185.74	\$448.67	\$634.41
G0417 (21-40 spec)	\$355.98	\$876.78	\$1,232.76
G0418 (41-60 spec)	\$617.82	\$1,497.84	\$2,115.66
G0419 (greater than 60 spec)	\$714.12	\$1,797.20	\$2,511.32

The payment levels assigned capture the skill, time, expertise and resources used to diagnose prostate cancer using saturation biopsy procedure. Documentation in the report as to whether a needle core, TUR or saturation biopsy will be key in assigning the correct code. Coding incorrectly for standard biopsies could result in lost revenue.

If you receive prostate specimens that were obtained by prostate saturation biopsy, please contact your account representative, account manager, or myself in order to accurately capture the billing information for accurate billing purposes.

Thank you,

Thomas W. Scheanwald  
Senior Vice President

Jan Toczynski, CPC, CCP