Corrections

CCS-P Exam Preparation, Fourth Edition (AHIMA Product # AC400212)

Practice Question 29 (page 10): The key gives the correct answer as (a). It may have been the correct answer using the 2011 CPT coding books, but according to the CPT 2012 coding book, "For paravertebral facet injection of the T12-L1 joint, or nerves innervating that joint, use 64490," (AMA 2012 CPT Professional Edition, 329).

Author response: Sorry for this long answer but these codes are problematic. The Fourth Edition uses the 2011 version of CPT, not 2012. But, there’s still a problem. CPT Changes: An Insider’s View 2010 wrote a nice discussion of these codes when they were first issued. At the CPT Symposium, they clearly stated that T12-L1 should be considered part of the lumbar spine for coding purposes because it often gets injected along with more lumbar vertebrae. I’m not sure who changed the coding note in 2011 to say that T12-L1 is now coded to 64490 because that violates the original intent of the code.

The problem exists when you try to code T12-L1 along with L1-L2, as in this question. You can’t code 64494 along with 64490, based on another coding note. So you have two coding notes that contradict themselves and makes answer choice b not possible. I’ve resolved this problem in my own head by coding 64490 if T12-L1 is the only thing they inject. If they inject T12-L1 and L1-L2, you have to code 64493 and 64494.

The only problem with this is, there is no formal guidance on this and makes question #29 more problematic. Thank you for bringing this up. I’m going to have to change the question in the Fifth Edition (2012), which we are currently working on. We’ll also need to report this to CPT Assistant and see if we can’t get formal clarification.

Practice Cases, Case 2 (page 27): There should be only one diagnosis and one procedure code.

Practice Exam 1, Question 52 (pages 58, 209): As written, both a and d are correct.

Practice Exam 1, Patient 14 (pages 85, 212): The codes are correct but we modified the descriptors to read: (DX2) 162.9, Primary lung cancer; (DX3) 199.1, Metastatic site unknown

Practice Exam 1, Patient 15 (pages 87, 212): Correct code for (DX2) Sprengel deformity is 755.52

Exam 3, Case 3 (pages 172–173, 227): PR1 should be 99244.