

3. External Engagement and Society Outreach Committee

The External Engagement and Society Outreach Committee serves as a liaison between the Federation of Medicine¹, which consists of the national medical specialty societies (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Surgeons, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Radiology) and state medical associations and the task force. It is responsible for assessing if public code edit and payment policy libraries meet the needs of national medical specialty societies and state medical associations by reaching out to and obtaining feedback from these groups. Keeping medical societies informed about the task force's work and soliciting their input is critical to the success of the task force. Physicians want to be sure that the standard edit system is transparent, uniform, reduces unnecessary administrative costs and results in fair reimbursement.

Outreach

One of the committee's first activities was to raise awareness about the work of the task force with AMA CPT² and AMA RUC³ representatives, who are well versed in coding and payment issues. Attendees at the AMA CPT and AMA/Specialty Society RVU Update Committee (RUC) initial yearly meetings heard presentations about the work of the task force. Follow-up correspondence was sent to the representatives that highlighted the effort and encouraged participation.

In April 2011, the Committee reached out to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) regarding the task forces' NCCI correct coding edits review. The AAP, AAFP and ACOG reviewed the NCCI edits and concluded the NCCI edits fairly represented the correct coding for their respective specialties. The specialties requested that any addition to standard code edit set include a Federation of Medicine feedback loop.

In May 2011, the Committee reached out to the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to encourage their involvement in the assistant at surgery discussions occurring in the Edit Committee. ACS participated in the discussions and a recommendation has been drafted that combines the assistant at surgery list from ACS and CMS.

In November 2011, the Committee distributed a call to action ~~reached out~~ to the Federation of Medicine (122 national specialty societies and 50 state medical societies) to stand behind the development of a standard code-editing system, as well as ~~that included a call to action as well as~~

¹ The Federation of Medicine represents the state and county medical associations and the national medical specialty societies represented in the American Medical Association House of Delegates that work together to advance the agenda of physicians and their patients.

² The CPT Editorial Panel has a number of representatives that maintain CPT and meets three times a year to discuss issues associated with new and emerging technologies as well as difficulties encountered with procedures and services and their relation to CPT codes.

³ The AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) is made up of the AMA and national medical specialty societies, which provides relative value unit (RVU) recommendations to CMS on an annual review.

general principles for a code-editing system. [This call action was distributed](#) to provoke a discussion and interest in the task force effort.

In January 2012, the Committee reached out to the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) to confirm that the Edit Committee's recommendation mirrored ASA's correct coding guidelines.

In May 2012, the Committee reached out to the American College of Radiology (ACR) as discussions regarding payment logic specific to radiology were being discussed in the Edit Committee. As a result of this activity, ACR has become an active participant in the newly formed Payment Rules Committee and task force.

In August 2012, the Committee sent a letter to the Federation of Medicine providing a MCCTF update, encouraging medical societies to become involved in the task force's work and making available to all interested parties a data file containing CPT Code Edits, which are consistent with guidelines and conventions established by the CPT Editorial Panel, to ensure correct coding. The letter also encouraged Federation participation in the task force.

In October 2012, the Colorado Medical Society sent letters to the local specialty society representatives advising them of the task force's activities and soliciting their involvement through the External Engagement and Outreach Committee. The Committee now includes a Colorado practicing physician who is available to speak directly with other physicians about the task force and its needs. This letter was also shared with the Federation of Medicine.

The External Engagement and Society Outreach Committee continues to raise awareness of the task force at the national level through presentations, updates to the Federation of Medicine and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Coordination with other Task Force Committees

The Outreach Committee will continue to facilitate discussions between the professional societies and the Edit and/or Payment Rules Committees on issues specific to their specialties and/or practice. As any specific requirements for submission of edits or payment rules are developed by the Data Sustaining Repository Committee, these will be communicated to the professional societies. Once the complete set of Colorado standardized edits and payment rules has been drafted, the Outreach Committee will notify the professional societies of the opportunity for review and comment, and are encouraged to do so.