

newsletter

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:33 PM

Subject: You can affect CPT Codes

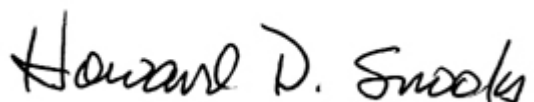
This email blast includes (1) an invitation to participate in the formulation of CPT Codes, and (2) an offer of a BCD-only large discount on a marketing program.

Dear Colleague,

We at the Center for Clinical Social Work thought you would like to have a chance to affect the setting of CPT Codes, which are formulated by committees of the American Medical Association. NASW has graciously consented to our alerting you to this opportunity and to sharing its "alert" below. CPT Codes may have a bearing on fees for psychotherapeutic services.

If you have relevant evidence that you would like to contribute to the review of CPT Codes, please contact NASW at psychotherapysurvey@naswdc.org as soon as possible. Please be aware that the deadline is February 28, 2009.

Sincerely,




Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD

President, Board of Directors

Center for Clinical Social Work/ABE

P.S. In the NASW material below, please be aware that only NASW members can use the second link.

January 30, 2009



the power of social work

Clinical Social Worker Alert
Evidence for Increasing Psychotherapy Fees

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes for psychotherapy are being considered for review to increase the work and practice expense values associated with reimbursement rates. Work values are based on the time and the required mental effort and judgment to perform a service, and the stress encountered due to the potential risk to the patient. Practice expense values include direct expenses of a clinical practice including clinical labor activities, medical supplies, and equipment. The consideration for review is taking place through the American Medical Association, Relative Value Scale Update Committee and the Health Care Professional Advisory Committee and consists of presenting compelling evidence that psychotherapy codes should be revalued.

NASW would like to hear from clinical social workers who have compelling evidence that work and practice expense values of psychotherapy codes should be increased. Compelling evidence includes, but is not limited to, factors such as

- Documentation in the literature that psychotherapy has changed
- Evidence of changes in psychotherapy due to technology
- Evidence that the patient population and types of problems have changed, resulting in increased work and stress for clinical social workers
- Flawed methodology used in previous psychotherapy surveys
- Analysis of data on time and effort measures such as clinical databases
- Misleading vignettes in previous psychotherapy surveys.
- An anomalous relationship between the code being valued and other codes.

NASW encourages clinical social workers to participate in the process to validate the need to increase the work and practice expense values of psychotherapy codes. Compelling evidence may be submitted to the following e-mail address, psychotherapysurvey@naswdc.org, no later than February 28, 2009.

Additional information about how reimbursement rates are developed is available at the following Web site:

National Association of Social Workers,

<https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/clinical/managedCare08/default.asp?back=yes%20>.

Scroll to the Reimbursement Section for practice update, "How Reimbursement Rates are Developed for Clinical Social Workers in Private Practice."

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