

Introduction To Coding

PART I

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Introduction To Coding

Coding is...

A standardized method of communicating with a patient's insurance company, using numeric codes, to indicate which billable services were performed during a patient's office visit.

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E/M
CODES

CPT
CODES

ICD
CODES

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E/M Codes

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E/M Codes

- E/M stands for "Evaluation and Management".
- Used to bill the **office visit** (not procedures or labs!).
- Represent the charges for diagnosing the problem(s) and counseling the patient.

Traditional New
Patients &
Consults

E/M
Codes

Established
Patient Visits

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Traditional New
Patients &
Consults

"New Patient" Definition:

- A patient who has never been seen by *any* providers (same specialty) in your practice, *OR*...
- A patient who has not received "professional services" within the past 3 years.
- The AMA and CMS now agree that the service must be "face to face" to count. See clarification [here](#).

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Traditional New Patients & Consults

What Is A "Consult"?

- A "consult" occurs when a physician specifically seeks input or assistance in the management of a patient's condition by referring that patient to another provider who has more expertise in that area of medicine.

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Consult

Correct Example:

A patient sees his family doctor for a check-up, and while there he asks the doctor to evaluate a lesion on his nose. His family doctor isn't sure what it is or how to best manage it, so the patient is sent over to see your supervising physician for evaluation and treatment.

Incorrect Example:

A patient sees his family doctor for a check-up, and while there he asks the doctor if he knows of any good dermatologists that he could recommend. No particular medical concern is specifically addressed, and the doctor simply provides a referral to your office.

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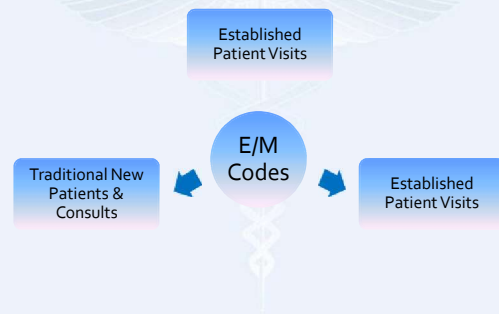
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Important "Caveat" About Consults:

Some insurances, including Medicare, are no longer providing coverage for Consults. Instead, when billing to these insurances, you must instead use "traditional" new patient visit codes.

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Established Patient Visits

"Established Patient" Definition:

- A patient who has been *formally* seen, treated, or provided medical advice within the past 3 years.
- It does not matter if the patient's paper charts are in storage. **Less than 3 years = Established.**

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E/M Codes

	NEW PATIENT	CONSULTS	ESTABLISHED PATIENTS	
COMPLEXITY OF VISIT	99201	99241	99211	COMPLEXITY OF VISIT
	99202	99242	99212	
	99203	99243	99213	
	99204	99244	99214	
	99205	99245	99215	

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In General....

- The **overwhelming majority** of visit codes used are:

New Patients
99202 – 99203

Consults
99242 – 99243

Established Patients
99212-99214

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In General....

- The lowest level new patient codes 99201 and 99241 are *rarely* used by most dermatologists.
- The new patient codes (99204 – 99205 and 99244 – 99245) are also *rarely* used by most dermatologists.
- Amongst the established patient codes, 99214 is occasionally used for a very complex visit, but it's *quite rare* to charge a level 99215.
- The "level one" established patient code 99211 can be used for nurse-only visits.

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E/M Codes

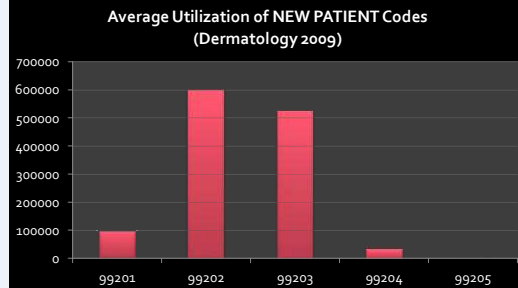
	NEW PATIENT	CONSULTS	ESTABLISHED PATIENTS	
	99201	99241	99211	
	99202	99242	99212	
	99203	99243	99213	
	99204	99244	99214	
	99205	99245	99215	

Complexity of visit increases from top to bottom and left to right.

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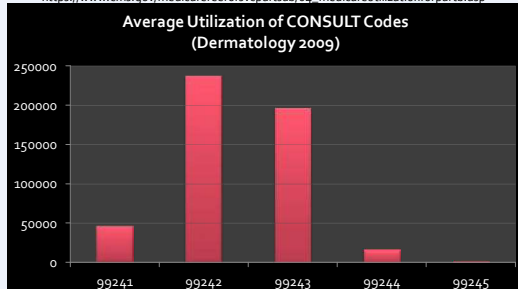
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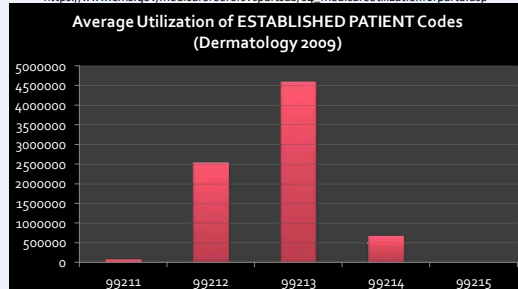
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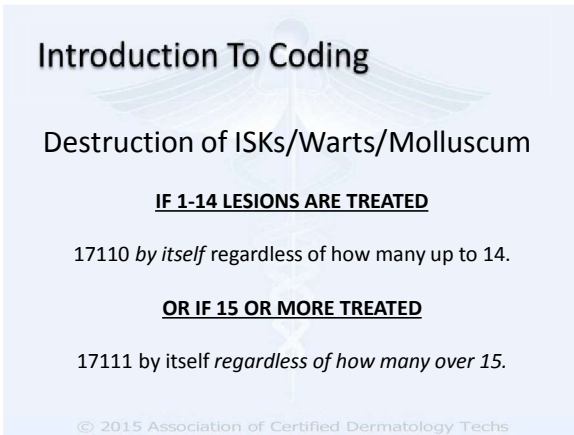
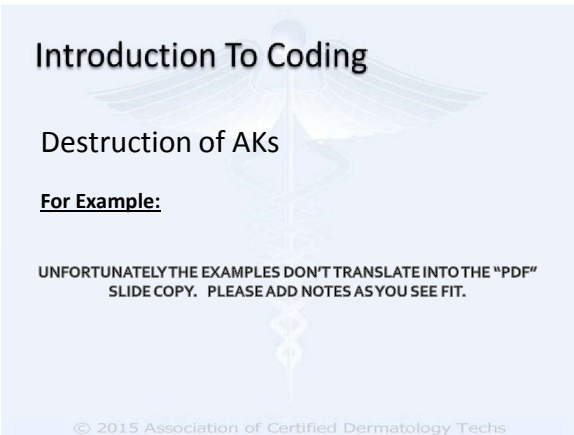
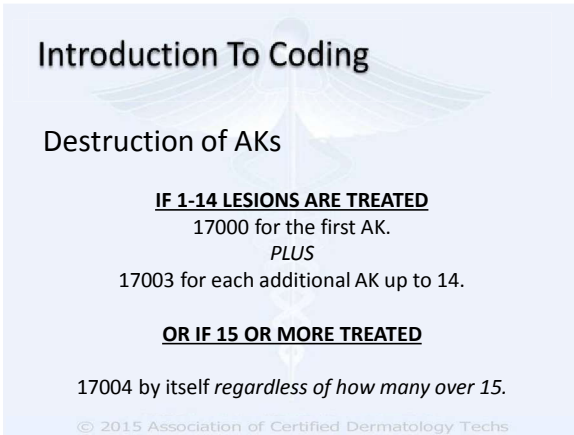
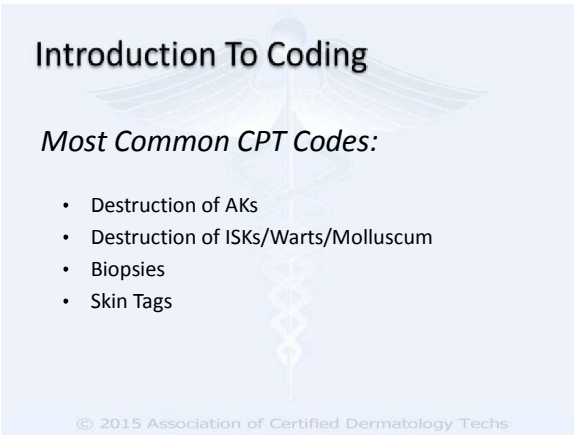
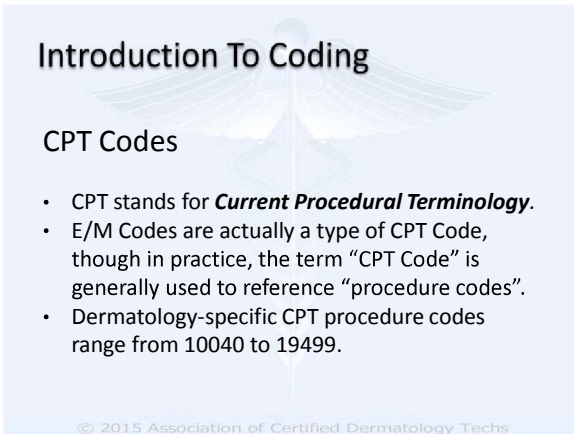
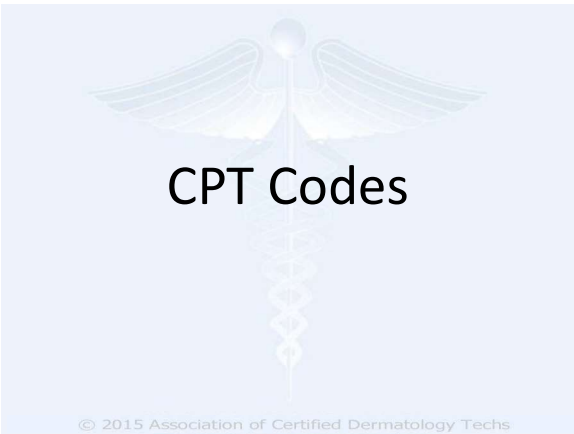
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https://www.cms.gov/medicare/fee-for-service/partsab/04_medicareutilizationforpartb.asp



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Destruction of ISKs/Warts/Molluscum

For Example:

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Biopsies

FIRST BIOPSY

11100

EACH ADDITIONAL BIOPSY

11101 (*x however many units*)

LOCATION SPECIFIC BIOPSIES

40490 - Lip

69100 – Biopsy of Ear

67810 - Eyelid

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Skin Tags

IF 1-15 TAG ARE TREATED

11200 by itself *regardless of how many up to 15.*

EACH "ADDITIONAL" 10 TAGS BEYOND 15

11201

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Skin Tags

For Example:

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ICD Codes

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ICD Codes

- Stands for ***International Classification of Diseases***.
- They are numeric values which represent the various diagnoses.
- Currently "ICD-9" is in use.
 - "ICD-10" was due for implementation by late 2013, but the deadline for its use now pushed back.
- Easiest of coding fundamentals to understand.

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ICD Codes

Examples

Acne - 706.1
Psoriasis - 696.1
Actinic Keratosis - 702.0

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“Location-Specific” ICD Codes

- xxx.0 – LIP
- xxx.1 – EYELID
- xxx.2 – EAR
- xxx.3 – FACE
- xxx.4 – SCALP/NECK
- xxx.5 – TRUNK
- xxx.6 – UPPER EXTREMITY
- xxx.7 – LOWER EXTREMITY
- xxx.8 – OTHER SPECIFIED SITE
- xxx.9 – SITE UNSPECIFIED

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*That concludes Part I of Introduction To Coding.
Please proceed to...*

Introduction To Coding PART II

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