

# RCC Update

**RCCB**  
RADIOLOGY CODING CERTIFICATION BOARD

 CODINGSTRATEGIES



Renée Engle, RCC, FRBMA,  
President,  
RCCB Board of Directors

I hope you've had a great kick off to summer with a fun Memorial Day weekend!

Since the last newsletter, the RCCB is very excited to have launched our new logo and new website, including a job board. Find all the information you need about the RCC, RCCIR, resources to help you prepare for both exams, and more at: [www.rccb.org](http://www.rccb.org).

We are also pleased to have the new RCCIR certification available for you. The first exam took place last month. You can now be recognized as an expert in interventional radiology coding and your physicians can have confidence in you as an IR coder. Please note that if you have friends or colleagues who might be interested and who aren't already RCCs, this certification is a standalone. The RCC is not required as a prerequisite to taking the RCCIR Exam.

Have a safe and fun summer!

Sincerely,  
Renée C. Engle, RCC, FRBMA

## Procedure Coding

## Changes Coming Your Way in 2019

Anticipated radiology CPT® changes for 2019 are discussed in the March-April issue of the *ACR Radiology Coding Source*™. We'll give you a brief summary in this article, but please see the ACR website for complete information:

<https://www.acr.org/Advocacy-and-Economics/Coding-Source/March-April-2018/CPT-2019-Anticipated-Code-Changes>

Many of these changes are a result of the work by the AMA's Relativity Assessment Workgroup (RAW) in identifying potentially misvalued services.

More information on the code changes will appear in the Spring Bulletin of the AMA/ACR *Clinical Examples in Radiology*. However, keep in mind that changes are not final until the AMA releases the new code set in August, and the CPT® Editorial Panel may make additional changes between now and then.

Fine needle aspiration code 10021 will be revised and code 10022 will be deleted. Also, 9 new codes that bundle the procedure and radiological supervision and interpretation (S&I) will be added.

Codes 77058, 77059, and 0159T will be deleted and replaced with 4 new breast MRI codes – 2 codes for breast MRI with and without contrast, and 2 codes that bundle computer-aided detection (CAD). Therefore, the breast MRI with CAD will be reported with Category I codes rather than Category III codes.

Code 27370 (injection of contrast for knee arthrography) is likely being incorrectly reported as arthrocentesis or aspiration. Code 27370 is expected to be deleted and replaced with a new code to report the injection procedure for knee arthrography or CT/MRI knee arthrography.

Ultrasound elastography Category III code 0346T is proposed to be deleted, and 3 new Category I codes will be

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RCC Update is a quarterly publication reporting on radiology coding developments and the latest news from the Radiology Coding Certification Board (RCCB). RCC Update is made possible with our partners at Coding Strategies, Inc.

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## Changes Coming Your Way in 2019

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added and will distinguish reporting per organ, first target lesion, and each additional target lesion.

There is currently no CPT code to describe magnetic resonance elastography as it is a new technology. A new code is proposed to be added to report this service.

Two new codes will be added to report ultrasound procedures that use dynamic microbubble-sonographic contrast with targeted ultrasound in evaluating lesions (contrast enhanced-ultrasound or CEUS).

Fluoroscopy code 76001 is set to be deleted due to low utilization of the code since this service is rarely performed and to minimize concerns of miscoding.

Two new codes will be added to describe PICC line procedures that bundle imaging guidance, imaging documentation, and all associated radiological S&I. Introductory language and parentheticals will also be updated to reflect that codes 36568 and 36569 are used to report PICC placement without imaging guidance. Code 36548 will be revised to include imaging guidance, imaging documentation, and all associated radiological S&I. The guidelines in the CPT codebook will also be updated.

RAW determined that code 43760 is reported by many different specialists and providers. To address the differences in physician work, code 43760 will be deleted and replaced with 2 new codes that define replacement of a percutaneous gastrostomy tube as simple or complex.

Two new codes are expected to report dilation of the urinary tract for endourologic procedures. Code 50395 will be deleted. Guidelines for the new codes will be added in the introduction of the urinary system section of the CPT codebook.

A new Category III code is expected to be available to report pulse-echo ultrasound bone density measurements for bone mineral density analysis.

For PET for the absolute quantification of myocardial blood flow at rest and at stress, a new Category III code has been proposed.

Five new patient relationship modifiers are proposed for development under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). These modifiers will attribute a patient to the physician(s) who is responsible for particular services to assess the resource use and episode of care for the MIPS Cost performance category.

- *Article by Coding Strategies® Staff*

## Diagnostic Radiology

### Taking a Closer Look at the New X-ray Codes

2018 brought a complete revision of the abdomen and chest x-ray codes with all but one of the previous abdomen and chest x-ray codes being deleted and replaced. We will take a closer look at the new codes and guidelines.

#### Chest X-Rays

For 2018, the number of chest x-ray codes was reduced from 9 to only 4. The table below shows the deleted codes for 2018, which included the number and types of views and use of fluoroscopy.

Code	Description
71010	Radiologic examination chest; single view, frontal
71015	...stereo, frontal
71020	Radiologic examination, chest, 2 views, frontal and lateral;
71021	...with apical lordotic procedure
71022	...with oblique projections
71023	...with fluoroscopy
71030	Radiologic examination, chest, complete, minimum of 4 views;
71034	...with fluoroscopy
71034	Radiologic examination, chest, special views (eg, lateral decubitus, Bucky studies)

#### Taking a Closer Look at the New X-Ray Codes

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## Taking a Closer Look at the New X-Ray Codes

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Four new codes were established to report chest x-rays: 71045, 71046, 71047, and 71048. See the table below for the code descriptions.

Code	Description
71045	Radiologic examination, chest; single view
71046	...2 views
71047	...3 views
71048	...4 or more views

Codes 71045-71048 are defined in terms of the number of views. To select the appropriate code, simply count the number of views. Code selection does not change for special views, such as lateral decubitus or expiration views. For example, if an exam consists of posteroanterior (PA), lateral decubitus, and lateral upright views, it would be reported with code 71047 for chest x-ray, 3 views.

When counting views, each oblique view that is performed should be counted separately. This includes right anterior oblique (RAO), left anterior oblique (LAO), right posterior oblique (RPO), and left posterior oblique (LPO). Additionally, inspiration and expiration views are each counted separately as are left lateral decubitus and right lateral decubitus views.

Because there are no longer combination codes for chest x-ray with fluoroscopy, each should be separately reported. The fluoroscopy can be reported with codes 76000 or 76001.

Chest x-ray with CAD is still reported with Category III codes +0174T and 0175T. When the same provider interprets the chest x-ray and the CAD, report the CAD with add-on code +0174T. Report code 0175T when CAD interpretation is performed as a stand-alone service without chest x-ray interpretation.

Tomosynthesis is a type of thin slice x-ray examination. Tomosynthesis exams of the chest are reported with code 76100.

Remember that the chest x-ray codes should not be used for x-rays of the ribs, sternum, and sternoclavicular joints since these areas have their own x-ray codes.

## Abdomen X-Rays

For 2018, three of the four abdomen x-ray codes were deleted and three new codes were added. Code 74022 (*Radiologic examination, abdomen; complete acute abdomen series, including supine, erect and/or decubitus views, single view chest*) is still a valid code.

The table on the next page shows the deleted codes, which are defined in terms of the number and types of views.

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## Taking a Closer Look at the New X-Ray Codes continued from previous page

Code	Description
74000	Radiologic examination, abdomen; single anteroposterior view
74010	...anteroposterior and additional oblique and cone views
74020	...complete, including decubitus and/or erect views

The three new codes for abdomen x-rays are simply defined by the number of views rather than the type of views. See the table below for code descriptions.

Code	Description
74018	Radiologic examination, abdomen; 1 view
74019	...2 views
74021	...3 or more views

A KUB ("kidneys, ureters, and bladder") is a single AP view and is reported with code 74018. However, a KUB may be performed as a scout exam before a gastrointestinal study such as a barium enema, in which case it cannot be reported unless the procedure is cancelled.

Code 74022 is sometimes referred to as an obstruction series or acute abdomen series. Code 74022 requires and includes all of the following:

- Supine AP view of the abdomen (KUB or flat plate)
- Upright or erect PA and/or decubitus view of the abdomen
- PA upright view of the chest

If the exam includes 2 views of the chest rather than 1, the chest and abdomen should be separately reported. The 2 view chest x-ray would be reported with code 71046, and the abdomen x-ray would be reported with code 74019 or 74021 depending on the number of views.

While there was a complete overhaul of the 2018 abdomen and chest x-ray codes, it certainly seems to have been for the better. Coding abdomen and chest x-rays is more straightforward than ever before.

- Article by Coding Strategies® Staff

## RCC and RCCIR Exam Information

**Exam Dates:** November 12-16, 2018

**Exam Location:** Test sites available nationwide, please click [here](#) for further information.

**Exam Application Deadline:** October 12, 2018 (must be in RCCB Office)

**Reservation Dates:** Reservations for the test site can be made beginning October 29, 2018. The deadline for making your reservation is November 11, 2018. Reservations not made by this date will be subject to the cancellation policy as stated in the [RCC Candidate Bulletin](#) and [RCCIR Candidate Bulletin](#) of information.