

# Anesthesia Professional Coding for McKesson Anesthesia Care™

## Benefits

- Maximize revenue with accurate comorbid condition documentation
- Support documentation of procedures and diagnoses
- Increase revenue by improving professional fee capture
- Save labor hours spent doing time-consuming medical record coding
- Improve anesthesiologists' financial health and satisfaction with healthcare organization
- Save time spent dealing with rejected claims

While surgeons focus exclusively on the surgical procedure at hand, anesthesiologists are charged with assembling a detailed portrait of the patients' overall health. As they create each patient's anesthesia plan of care from pre-op to post-op, anesthesiologists are uniquely positioned to recoup the considerable revenue routinely lost to limited comorbid documentation.

McKesson's Anesthesia Professional Coding module is a sophisticated coding tool that assists with the anesthesiologist's documentation of a patient's medical history, including pre-existing physiologic conditions. Anesthesia Professional Coding utilizes five-digit codes to specify comorbid conditions requiring a higher level of care — such as hypertension, atrial fibrillation, congestive heart failure and gastric reflux disease. The resulting digital documentation provides a more accurate and thorough charge capture for quality professional care.

## Accurate Comorbid Documentation

Inadequately documented comorbid conditions cost hospitals more than three times the dollars, per surgical case, lost to medication errors. For any given surgery, the financial disparity between an event with documented comorbidities and an event without is significant. For example, an appendectomy with documented comorbidities might result in a hospital reimbursement of \$13,556.57, while the same appendectomy without documented

co-morbidities brings in \$7,301.081.<sup>1</sup> Failure to charge patients for increased levels of severity and changes to their diagnostic related group stature is effectively giving away care — a proposition healthcare organizations can't afford.

## Improved Professional Fee Capture

By permitting the start of continuous and discontinuous anesthesia time in pre-op and sign-off in PACU, the McKesson Anesthesia Care™ application provides an accurate record of an anesthesiologist's beginning and end time. The Anesthesia Professional Coding module prevents the routine loss of billable time on the front and back end of every case, increasing the anesthesia provider's reimbursement as well as the employing hospital's revenue. Electronic data transfer of professional fee billing information dramatically reduces the time spent transcribing data and cuts the costs of paper storage and transmittal.

## Increased Labor Savings

Accurate billing always begins at the point of care. Anesthesia Professional Coding improves the speed of the collection cycle by sending outbound charge capture directly to the healthcare organization's billing system at case closure. Without digital documentation, certified coders in Medical Records spend approximately three hours interpreting each chart.

## Features

- **Five-digit codes to specify comorbid conditions**
- **An accurate record of an anesthesiologist's beginning and end times**
- **Electronic data transfer of professional fee billing information**

Anesthesia Professional Coding reduces that time by more than a third, resulting in considerable labor savings and decreased overtime for both the Medical Records department and the anesthesiology group's billing staff.

## Protected Legal Record

Due to the unquestionable immediacy of information captured within the electronic health record (EHR), the Anesthesia Professional Coding module also reduces legal risk. In court, the EHR protects anesthesiologists from those who might seek to impugn a handwritten medical record.

## Maximum Return on Investment

In an independent study conducted with the records of Medicare inpatients at an academic medical center, use of McKesson's Anesthesia Professional Coding module in anesthesiologists' pre-op assessment increased revenues by \$21.23 per surgical case — resulting in projected annual revenue of more than \$248,000. In addition, providing coders with a legible, organized summary of surgical patients' comorbid conditions amounted to \$13.45 in labor savings per surgical case — an annual savings of more than \$157,000.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jerry Stonemetz, MD, "A Key Opportunity for Return on Value: Capturing Comorbid Condition Documentation," HCT Project, Volume 2, 7/17/2004.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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## For More Information

**For more information on the Anesthesia Professional Coding module and McKesson Anesthesia Care, contact your client executive or call McKesson at 800-981-8601.**

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RMG103-09/07