Critical care Instructors guide:

**Background:**

Critical care is a time-based service and billed a bit differently than the typical E/M Level 1-5 charts. For coding purposes, critical illness or injury is defined as “an illness or injury that acutely impairs one or more vital systems such that there is a high probability of imminent or life-threatening deterioration in the patient's condition.” In addition, CMS adds "the failure to initiate these interventions on an urgent basis would likely result in sudden, clinically significant or life-threatening deterioration in the patient's condition."

**Purpose and Goals:**

To provide a general overview of critical care coding and billing in the emergency department.

**Educational Objectives:**

Understand key elements of documentation needed to bill for critical care.

Review requirements necessary in the ED chart to bill for critical care time in the emergency department

**RESOURCE FILES:**

1. Critical care coding and billing didactic

a. This didactic provides an overview of critical care coding and billing in the emergency

department

2. Summary Handout:

a.

This document from ALiEM is a clear concise summary of the teaching points

from the didactics that learners can use as a reference tool while on shift in real

time.

**TOTAL MODULE DURATION:** 30 minutes

**REQUIRED RESOURCES:**

- Computer with capability of running PowerPoint

**DESCRIPTION OF MODULE:**

Intended Audience

- This module was developed for medical students, EM residents at any level of training,

and attending physicians

**Pre-reading**

ACEP Critical Care FAQ <https://www.acep.org/administration/reimbursement/reimbursement-faqs/critical-care-faq/#question0> accessed on 8/19/2020

Academic Life in Emergency Medicine – “ED Charting and Coding: Critical Care Time”

<https://www.aliem.com/charting-coding-critical-care-time/> (accessed 8/19/2020)

**Recommended implementation/timeline**

**- Pre-module**

Prior to attending the didactic session, the pre-reading should be provided to the

learners in order to allow them the chance to introduce themselves to the topic

of critical care billing prior to the session.

- **During the module**

Critical Care Didactic presented by a senior resident or faculty member. (60 minutes)

**CONCLUSIONS**:

Emergency medicine residents are expected to manage critically ill patients and part of that training includes being able to document the care rendered and the patient’s condition appropriately to allow for correct critical care billing. This module was developed to help train emergency medicine residents on the basics of critical care billing and coding. After completion of this module, learners will better understand the requirements of critical care billing and coding, what components are included and which are billed separately and what specific information is expected in the chart to indicate the patient was critically ill, helping them practice independently as emergency medicine physicians in the future.

**REFERENCES:**

Critical Care Services: Guidelines for Use of Critical Care Codes (CPT codes 99291 and 99292)

<https://cgsmedicare.com/partb/pubs/news/2020/05/cope17364.html> (accessed 8/24/2020)

2018 National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File, GPCI18, National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File Calendar Year 2018, MCR-MUE-Practitioner Services Published by CMS. Effective: April 1, 2018.

CMS – 2016 Medicare Utilization Data by Specialty 93 – National: For Claims Processed with 2016 Dates of Service filed by June 30, 2017

<https://www.aliem.com/charting-coding-critical-care-time/> (accessed 8/24/2020)

<https://www.acep.org/administration/reimbursement/reimbursement-faqs/critical-care-faq/#question0> (accessed 8/24/2020)

<https://www.cgsmedicare.com/partb/mr/pdf/critical_care_fact_sheet.pdf> (accessed 8/24/2020)

<https://cgsmedicare.com/partb/pubs/news/2020/05/cope17364.html> (accessed 8/24/2020)