**CODING AND BILLING: THE BASICS**

**INSTRUCTOR’S GUIDE**

**BACKGROUND:**

The topic of coding and billing is not often taught in residency, but it is an important subject that is relevant to all emergency medicine physicians.

**PURPOSE AND GOALS:**

To provide a general overview of coding and billing in the emergency department, providing learners with a basic rubric of how to determine the level of severity of a patient’s visit in order to create an ethical but fiscally responsible chart.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this didactic, the learner will be able to:

1. Define the term “E/M code”.
2. Determine the potential E/M code of a patient’s emergency department visit based on the severity of their presenting problem.
3. State the required components of the 5 different E/M codes in terms of history, physical exam and medical decision making.

**RESOURCE FILES:**

1. **Coding and Billing: The Basics** Didactic
   1. This didactic provides an overview of coding and billing in the emergency department
   2. Estimated time: 60 minutes
2. **Summary Handout:** 
   1. 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:** 60 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

* Evaluation and management services guidelines. Dept of Health and Human Services: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/eval_mgmt_serv_guide-ICN006764TextOnly.pdf>. Published August 2017. Accessed March 6, 2020. Pages 1-19 only for pre-reading.

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 billing and coding prior to the session.
* During the module
  + **Coding and Billing: The Basics** Didactic presented by a senior resident or faculty member. (60 minutes)

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine requires that residents must display proficiency in documentation prior to graduation from their residency programs, yet it is typically not incorporated into a traditional emergency medicine residency curriculum. This module was developed to train medical students and residents the basics in emergency department billing and coding per guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, an industry standard. After completion of this curricular module, learners will better understand the general requirements for the individual levels of coded patient visits to the emergency department in order to help them practice independently as emergency medicine providers in the future.

**REFERENCES:**

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8. Watase T, Yarris LM, Fu R, Handel DA. Educating emergency medicine residents in emergency department administration and pperations: Needs and current practice. *J Grad Med Educ.* 2014 Dec;6(4):770-3.