**Procedural and Point-of-Care Ultrasound Billing & Coding: An Instructor’s Guide**

**Goals:**

To provide an overview of the required elements of procedural documentation necessary to successfully code and bill for completion of a given procedure. This will focus on a generalized approach to procedures in the emergency department, as well as a more in-depth look at specific types of procedures that have nuanced requirements. This overview will include documentation for diagnostic point-of-care ultrasound in the emergency department, as well as procedures completed under sonographic guidance.

**Educational Objectives:**

* Understand key elements of documentation needed to bill for procedures performed in an emergency department
* Discuss distinct elements of specific procedures that require additional information documented in order to bill for these procedures
* Review requirements to bill for a diagnostic point-of-care ultrasound study performed in the emergency department
* Review requirements to maximally bill for a procedure completed under ultrasound guidance

**Background:**

Billing and coding is considered an “orphan topic” in emergency medicine, as other elements of the core curriculum take priority, and few general emergency physicians are truly experts on it. However, many emergency physicians must code their own patient encounters, while other physicians or departments may hire individuals or companies to provide coding and/or billing services.

It is probably a rare occurrence where a procedure of some type is not completed on a given shift. Not only does proper documentation of a procedure help ensure a sound document in the medical record, it can provide additional revenue to individual physicians and their departments. Regardless of who completes the coding, it is important to learn proper documentation techniques in order to maximally bill for these procedures, some of which can be quite lucrative.

**Resource Files:**

* Billing & Coding: Emergency Department Procedures & Point-of-Care Ultrasound PowerPoint presentation
* Billing & Coding: Emergency Department Procedures & Point-of-Care Ultrasound: Summary Handout

**Implementation:**

* Pre-course Assignment: learners should read the information provided at the following links:
  + [ACEP: What Every Graduating Resident Needs to Know About Reimbursement](https://www.acep.org/administration/reimbursement/what-every-graduating-resident-needs-to-know-about-reimbursement/)
  + [ACEP: Reimbursement FAQs](https://www.acep.org/administration/reimbursement/reimbursement-faqs-1/)
* Presentation
  + The presenter should be familiar with the content in advance, as it is applicable to all levels of learners, although potentially more relevant to senior residents.
  + The presentation can be given as a whole, or divided into a procedural component and a point-of-care ultrasound component, depending on the needs of learners and scheduling opportunities.

**Conclusions:**

Coding and billing of emergency services is an acquired skill, and one that is variably incorporated into didactics for emergency medicine learners, and often by non-experts. It is applicable to residents and fellows, advanced practice providers, and even faculty. Procedures and point-of-care ultrasound are key elements of the daily practice of emergency medicine, and it is imperative that learners know how to document these key procedures appropriately, as well as how to code them if needed. If one is performing these tasks already, and enhancing patient care by doing so, we should be doing everything possible to ensure proper and maximal reimbursement for it.