



No. 1

January 2011

Editor: Kathleen Wright

From the President's desk

The New Year has begun and I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy, and successful year. It is an honor to serve as your President this year

We have had our first meeting for the year. Thank you all who participated in our Networking Coders Bingo. I was amazed at the “quality of talent” and how well you all did with matching procedures and diagnoses, without the help of coding software and books.

I have just a few goals I would like to accomplish and I think that they are very attainable.

My first goal is to make you all want to interact and be part of your chapter and not just come for our necessary CEU’s but to enjoy each other and each meeting....easy

My second goal is to offer each and every one of you the exposure to topics and education that we all will need to succeed in the next years to come with ICD-10, HiTech, etc. and to be able to look forward with confidence instead of the fear we are currently feeling.

My third goal is to bring us all to “CHAPTER OF THE YEAR”. This is a very easy goal to accomplish and we are just about there. With all of your support with exams, prep classes, our Newsletter, May Mania and Coders Day – we will accomplish this goal. Last year we had the biggest Coders Day ever and it was a hit not only within our Chapter, but had been the buzz word around the industry. Our National AAPC was extremely impressed, especially thanks to our Kent Davenport’s amazing photography. We are hoping to have the AAPC Guru of ICD-10 at Coders Day....I will keep you informed.

Right now, we have speakers and events booked through June. If anyone has a meeting idea that they would love to see presented or a speaker they would like to hear, please bring that to our attention either by e-mail or at the next meeting. Please also write down all your coding and billing questions that arise during the month so that you can share with the membership. Even if you have resolved the issue, another member may benefit from your experience. We would love to hear from you.

I look forward to our next meeting on February 3, 2011 and introducing you all to Terry Kelly of Meridian Health. She has been quite involved in the RAC and has lots of firsthand information to tell us about.

Please also remember to go to www.monmouthnjcoders.com – go to events and then start signing up for meetings and sign up for May Mania at Whoscoming.com. We promise you a morning that you will love.

Your 2011 President
Bonnie Jaye Ivler

Job Board

This was kindly contributed by Alice LaBruzza, CPC:

Hi Everyone, I am a member of the Monmouth-Ocean chapter. There is a **full time job opening** in my office in East Brunswick, offering great compensation and benefits. We need a medical biller, familiar with insurance claims tracking and appeals, etc. Please spread the word and give my email address for any resumes: albhills@aol.com Or, resumes can be faxed to (732) 967-0055, attention Alice.

Thank you so very much!
Alice LaBruzza, CPC
Billing Manager
Brunswick-Hills OB-GYN



“ASK BARBARA”

Question: I don't know if this falls under AAPC ask the coder but I am stuck on a total thyroidectomy with bilateral central compartment lymph node dissection.

I don't think I am doing this right

Thank you

Felecia

Response from Ask Barbara:

According to Otolaryngology Coding Alert July 2010, it says the following:

Published on: July 2010

“Question: *I just purchased your audio conference CD “Decipher Neck Dissection Vocabulary and Unlock the Correct Codes” and remain quite interested in how you resolved the after conference question, how do you code a central neck dissection? Since this anterior neck dissection targets only level VI lymph nodes, it would seem an exception to both RND and MRND as they include Lymph Nodes II- V. I’ve read this to be a modification of a selective neck dissection, but no MRND involves these level VI nodes (a quite arduous and distinct dissection). I find a previous recommendation of using 38724-52 unsatisfactory for this very reason. What should I report?* Massachusetts Subscriber

Answer: The most accurate code for this is 38999 (*Unlisted procedure, hemic or lymphatic system*). Central compartment neck dissection refers to the bilateral removal of lymph nodes surrounding the midline visceral structures of the anterior neck. The lymph nodes include the pre- and paratracheal, precricoid and perithyroidal. The upper limit of the dissection is the hyoid bone; the lower limit is the suprasternal notch; and the lateral limits are the carotid arteries.

Unlisted procedure codes do not appear in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, so they do not have assigned fees or global periods. Your payers will generally determine payment for unlisted-procedure claims based on the documentation you provide. You can suggest a fee by comparing the unlisted procedure to a similar, listed procedure with an established reimbursement value. It helps put your service in perspective with something they are familiar with, experts say. Therefore, for your fee, compare this code to 38724 (*Cervical lymphadenectomy [modified radical neck dissection]*).

Remember: Any time you file a claim using an unlisted procedure code, you should include a cover letter stating why you are using the unlisted code. This separate report should explain, in simple, straightforward language, exactly what the physician did.”

If a modified neck and a central neck dissection is performed, you then code 38724-22 to indicate the additional work for the modified neck dissection which the central neck dissection added. Don’t back down from an appeal; use the documentation and the levels of the lymph nodes to show the additional work. The MRND does not include the Level VI which is the central neck dissection. The MRND is levels II-V.

Barbara

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY MANIA 2011

MAY 14, 2011

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Renaissance Catering, 1110 Valley Road, Ocean Township, NJ

*****4 AAPC CEUs*****

Join us for a morning of speakers who specialize in fields related to women's health issues.

Admission includes deluxe breakfast, served 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Menu includes omelette station, bagels with accoutrements, eggs benedict, bacon and sausage, french toast, honey baked ham, fresh fruit display, pastry assortment, juices, tea and coffee with flavored creamers.

Our vendors will offer sampling and selling of womens-related products.

Giveaways and door prizes galore!

A day like no other . . . bring a friend!

Cost for attendees is only \$39.00 and includes *deluxe breakfast!*

For directions, visit: www.falcoscatering.com/directions.html.

~Accepting Vendor Applications~
only \$99.00, including breakfast!

Attendees please Register now at <http://whoscoming.com/AAPC/>

EXAMS

The next exam will be held on February 5, 2011 at Brookdale
Community College in Lincroft, NJ
Atec Building Room 218 & 220

Future Exam Dates:

May 7, 2011
August 6, 2011
October 22, 2011
December 3, 2011

Check AAPC website under your local Chapter for future prep classes to be offered before future exams starting with the May 7, 2011 test for the CPC exam.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

February 3, 2011	August 4, 2011
March 3, 2011	September 1, 2011
April 7, 2011	October 29, 2011 – Coders Day
May 14, 2011 – May Mania	November 3, 2011
June 9, 2011	December 1, 2011

**Please sign up in advance at www.monmouthnjcoders.org
Go to events and click on Whoscoming for the event you wish to attend.**

Minutes from January's Meeting

January 6, 2011

The meeting began shortly after 6:00 pm. Bonnie Ivler welcomed everyone, and wished all a Happy New Year. Introductions of all new officers were made. Congratulations were extended, and CPC pins distributed to those who most recently passed their certification exams, as well as two pins to Maria Sanchez for CPC-H and CPC-P.

Members were instructed of the importance of providing their membership numbers, in order for our chapter to be paid. All were requested to sign up at whoscoming.com, before each meeting, so that we may have the correct numbers for ordering food. They were also encouraged to bring a friend along to New Business:

Newsletter. It was discussed that we are going to start a chapter newsletter, which will include the following information: minutes of previous meetings, upcoming events, job postings, coding questions & answers, etc. Any information that members wish to share, or requests for topics to be covered, can be emailed to Kathy Wright at kathleen.wright@bchs.com.

Membership directory. Members were instructed that the directory will be available at the February meeting, and to please review and provide corrections as needed, so that it can be revised and mailed out to all current members. We will not be printing a new hard copy- we are going green!

Power Point Presentations. We will no longer be providing printed copies at meetings. Each member is responsible for printing out his or her own copy, which will be available one week before each meeting, at the AAPC website, under "my local chapter" event site.

Goals Our goal for this year is to become "Chapter of the Year," and we believe that with our very popular "Coder's Day," and other events, plus the enthusiasm of our members, we have a very real shot at this. Members were encouraged to get involved in any way that they can.

Upcoming Events May Mania, 5/14 at Renaissance in Ocean. Coder's Day, 10/29 at Banches. Volunteers welcomed.

Misc.

- Barbara Cobuzzi asked if there were any specialty coders that would be interested in developing a network of coders to assist members in obtaining specialty certifications.
- Bonnie Ivler informed members that if they are owed anything from the chapter, such as free Coder's Day, to please let her know, as that information had not been handed over from the previous administration.
- The chapter is looking into purchasing their own laptop computer. We will take a member vote at the next meeting.
- Volunteers to help set up and clean up at meetings were encouraged, and are always welcomed.

The meeting was turned over to our guest speaker, Claire Bartkewicz, who spoke about the importance of networking in this field, and who created a Networking Bingo game to encourage members to interact and meet new people. Much fun was had, and prizes were given out to the first three winners:

Sherry Driver, Felicia Bernstein and Maria Sanchez. Raffle was held, more prizes given out. Members were reminded that the next meeting, on February 3, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, as we do every February. The topic that night will be: "Let's RAC and Roll" All about the RAC.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Wright CPC
Secretary

We are looking for all different types of columns for our Newsletter to share with other coders. Please submit any great recipes you might have, anecdotes – like all in a day’s work...

Please contact Kathy Wright with all your ideas about what you would like to see in your monthly Newsletter.

FYI

Our own “Ask Barbara”, Barbara Cobuzzi MBA, CPC, CPC-H, CPC-I, CENTC

Will be presenting a live Webinar on eScribing Wednesday, February 16, 2011 At 1 PM. This is a 90 minute session. Discounts offered for our Monmouth-Ocean AAPC members...go to

<http://www.audioeducator.com/conference-conference-electronic-prescribing-2011-160211?trk=STCI1C01> to learn more.....