

Decoding the codes: CPT® and RUC simplified



AMA works collaboratively to develop common language for healthcare community

Physicians volunteer expertise



Rich Duszak,
Radiologist and member of
CPT editorial panel

"I really want to make a difference in our healthcare delivery system, and participating in the CPT Editorial Panel process — a fundamental step in service reporting and therefore ultimately payment — is an important way to do just that."

CPT

is a set of codes and descriptions for reporting medical services and procedures which provides a common language to accurately describe services in the health care profession.

The RUC

is a volunteer panel that makes recommendations to the government on relative values and practice costs used to establish Medicare payment rates.

Physicians volunteer expertise



Doug Leahy,
Primary care internist
and member of RUC

"Medicine is a profession with a heart. The RUC has allowed me to be my patients' advocate. There is no group who does a better job to get it right and I am very honored to be part of the process."

Steps to a code

CPT Current Procedural Technology

ONGOING

Applications submitted by any member of the public throughout the year

FEBRUARY

CPT Editorial Panel considers the applications and develops CPT codes

AUGUST

Release of new CPT codes

NOVEMBER 1

CMS announces new Medicare payment rates

MARCH

Specialty societies collect data for new CPT codes

APRIL

RUC considers specialty data and recommendations

MAY

RUC submits recommendations to CMS

JANUARY 1

CPT codes and new Medicare payment rates implemented

RUC The Relative Value Scale Update Committee

Members of the CPT editorial panel

Members of the RUC

300 Advisors and Experts Provide Input

CMS is a member of the CPT Editorial Panel and attends the RUC meetings

11 Appointed Physician Members

3 Physician Payer Representatives

2 HCPAC Representatives

1 AHA Physician Representative

1 Chair

1 Practice Expense Review Committee Representative

1 AMA Representative

25 Appointed Members of Medical Specialty Societies

1 CPT Editorial Panel Representative

1 American Osteopathic Association Representative

1 HCPAC Representative