



UEI Coding Alert # 21

March 15, 2006

Fundus Photography / Laser Coherence Tomography / Visual Fields

The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) places Fundus Photography (CPT 92250), in a "mutually exclusive" bundle with Laser Coherence Tomography (LCT) (CPT 92135) and should not be billed on the same date. The rule becomes even more confusing when you wish to perform Visual Fields (CPT 92083), on the same day too.

This combination of procedures was addressed by the Trailblazer Health Medicare Advisory Committee last year. It was determined that you could perform Visual Fields (CPT 92083) and Fundus Photography (CPT 92250) on the same day and then bring the patient back on another day to perform Laser Coherence Tomography (CPT 92135). The exception to this guideline would be if the patient had a long distance to travel or was unable to travel due to illness and it was necessary to perform all tests to properly diagnosis the patient. This latter scenario would however require written documentation to justify the necessity of testing due to the patient's travel situation.

It is recommended that you initially perform the Visual Fields (CPT 92083) and the Fundus Photography (CPT 92250) on the first visit, then bring the patient back in 3-6 months for Laser Coherence Tomography (CPT 92135). A Visual Field performed once a year is deemed appropriate in mild to moderate cases of glaucoma and on the alternate 6th month visit, Laser Coherence Tomography can be performed.

Remember:

1. Don't perform Visual Fields (CPT 92083) and Laser Coherence Tomography (CPT 92135) on the same day.
2. Don't perform Fundus Photography (CPT 92250) and Laser Coherence Tomography (CPT 92135) on the same day.
3. If you have to perform the Fundus Photography (CPT 92250), Laser Coherence Tomography (CPT 92135), and Visual Fields (CPT 92083) on the same day because the patient had a long distance to travel or was unable to travel due to illness and it was necessary to perform all tests to properly diagnosis the patient, then append modifier -59 to the Fundus Photography (CPT 92250) and the Visual Fields (CPT 92083).