



Cardiac Cath Lab Chargemaster & Chart Audit Review

How do you:

- Recognize untapped Cardiac Cath Lab revenue in excess of 500K?
- Identify reimbursement errors in excess of 800K over a sampling of audited procedures?
- Identify long term reimbursement errors in excess of \$3.5 million over a three year period?
- Identify physician documentation coding errors creating organization compliance risks?
- Identify workflow ineffectiveness as it relates to charge capture, procedure documentation and application system utilization?

An effective way to address these questions is by conducting a Chargemaster Description Master (CDM) and chart audit review at the department level.

DIVURGENT was engaged with a 250 bed healthcare organization located in the southwest to conduct a concentrated Chargemaster Description Master file and procedural chart audit review for the organization's Cardiac Cath Lab department. The two room Cardiac Cath Lab department conducts over 200 procedures each month. A multi-disciplinary group which included representatives from the Cardiac Cath Lab department, HIM, Business Office, Finance and Information Systems were involved.

The CDM review phase of the engagement utilized the automated application MedChex from Healthcare Concepts. Three line by line review cycles were conducted; once utilizing the automated tool, a second pass by our Cardiac Cath Lab senior consultant and finally a review with the organization's department management team. Final recommendations were derived and categorized as:

- All chargecodes recommended for inactivation due to one or more of the following: zero utilization, deleted CPT code, duplicate by CPT code.
- A list of chargecodes that have a change recommendation(s change revenue code, change chargecode description and application of appropriate CPT or HCPCS code(s).
- A list of supply items that require additional information and clarification as to what the item is in order to determine if a specific HCPCS code is appropriate.

In addition to the CDM line by line review, on site interviews and departmental walk throughs were conducted. Attention to reviewing the full workflow processes, charge capture processes, charge documentation and alignment with the department information system, Mac-Lab, were paramount.

The second phase of the project focused on the detail review and analysis of 200 Cardiac Cath Lab accounts strategically identified for review by hospital personnel. The accounts generated by the Cardiac Cath Lab included: peripheral arteriograms, peripheral interventions, diagnostic cardiac cath and coronary interventions.

Detail charge reports and UB claims were reviewed and compared to the procedure documented report for each account. Assessment findings and associated recommendations were detailed with over 190 of the 200 charts reviewed identified with some level of deficiencies.



Key points drawn from the detail report included the following:

- The misuse and/or inconsistency of established panel codes resulting in errors with charging and coding documentation.
- Physician documentation lacking specific and detailed procedure information necessary to validate and justify procedure CPT codes being captured and billed.
- Implementation of an ongoing charge capture / coding education program for all involved departments ensuring consistent and effective charge capture.
- Cardiac Cath Lab specific coding education for HIM is necessary in order to supplement and ensure all procedures are coded appropriately based upon physician documentation.
- Upon completion of the review, evaluation of the financial impact was performed utilizing CMS "addendum b" reimbursement for hospital outpatient services. The financial impact analysis of the 200 accounts identified a potential overpayment of \$580,432.75 and a potential underpayment of \$193,292.
- A more aggressive follow up review of all Medicare related procedures was recommended with an estimated reimbursement impact to the organization in excess of \$3.5 million spanning a three year period.