BADRI

Medical
Newsletter

TOPIC 1

**EVALUATION OF MEDICAL PROCEDURE
CODES IN HEALTHCARE - Page 2**

TOPIC 2

**HEALTH UPDATES IN MIDDLE
EAST REGION - Page 7**

TOPIC 1: EVALUATION OF MEDICAL PROCEDURE CODES IN HEALTHCARE

For more than 50 years, CPT has been the primary medical language used to communicate across health care, enabling seamless processing and advanced analytics for medical procedures and services. To support the country's reimbursement network and its government regulatory role, CPT serves as a common language that uses consistent and standardized procedural codes to enable communication between: [1]

Patient → **Health Providers** → **Private & Public Insurers**

The use of standardized CPT codes in the Gulf Region has enabled increased automation and efficiency through integrated digital systems such as: [2]

- **eClaimLink** *established by Dubai Health Authority (DHA).*
- **Shafafiya** *by the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi.*
- **Dhamani** *platform supporting the population of the Sultanate of Oman.*
- **Malaffi** *platform – AbuDhabi has used COVID-19 testing and vaccine. codes during the COVID-19 pandemic response.*

Insurers, health authorities, and medical practitioners in this region have a structured reimbursement system for the pre-approval of treatment more efficiently for patients, encouraging greater access to treatment and helping streamline communications and reporting analytics within their entire healthcare ecosystems.

Updated CPT codes:

As medicine evolves with clinical innovations such as genomic testing and remote patient monitoring, physicians, innovators, and any other stakeholders working within the healthcare space will need to assess new or updated CPT codes to describe their innovation. The CPT code set is constantly updated by the CPT Editorial Panel to reflect current clinical practice and the latest innovations to improve the delivery of care.[3]

The American Medical Association (AMA) has officially announced the 2023 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code set. The updates include:

102	68	87
New Codes	Deleted Codes	Revised Codes

The new and updated CPT codes are about surgery, medicines, radiology, pathology, and laboratory.

Surgery:

Coding updates in the surgery section include the following systems: integumentary, musculoskeletal, respiratory, cardiovascular, digestive, urinary, male genital, and nervous.
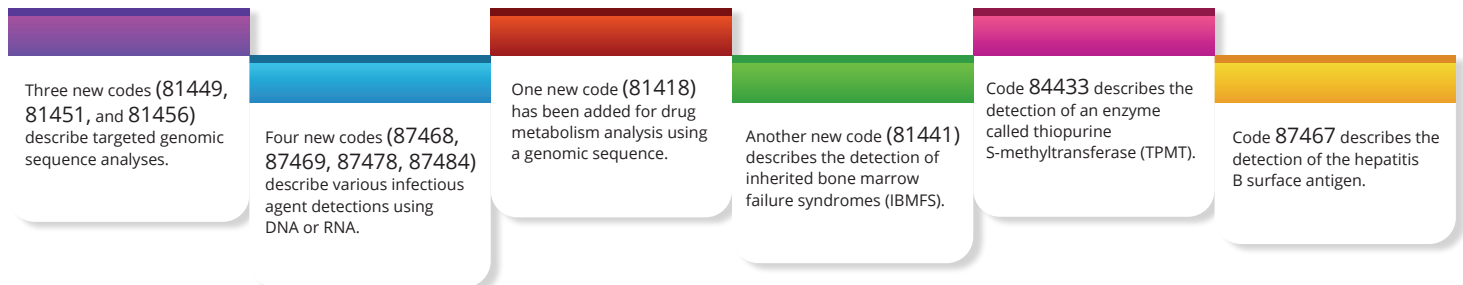
Integumentary System

Code 15778 describes the implantation of absorbable mesh or another prosthesis for delayed closure defects.

Codes 15853 and 15854 describe the removal of sutures or staples not requiring anesthesia.

Respiratory System

One new respiratory system code 30469 describes repairing a nasal valve collaps using temperature-controlled remodeling.

Cardiovascular System

Codes 33900–33904 describe percutaneous pulmonary artery revascularization by stent replacement.

Codes 36836 & 36837 describe a percutaneous arteriovenous fistula creation of an upper extremity.

Digestive System

Codes 43290 and 43291 describe an esophagogastroduodenoscopy with the deployment or removal of an intragastric bariatric balloon.

Codes 49621-49623 describe the repair of a parastomal hernia, including the implantation of mesh or other prosthesis or the removal of a non-infected mesh or prosthesis (49623).

All 18 deleted codes in this section describe the repair of various types of hernias.

Urinary System

Urinary system codes 50080 and 50081 have been revised to include more detail to clarify a percutaneous nephrolithotomy or pyelolithotomy lithotripsy procedure.

Male Genital System

One new code 55867 has been added to the male genital system section to describe a laparoscopic simple subtotal prostatectomy, including robotic assistance when used.

Nervous System

Codes 69716–69717, 69719, and 69726–69727 were revised to clarify the description of an Osseointegrated skull implant replacement or removal.
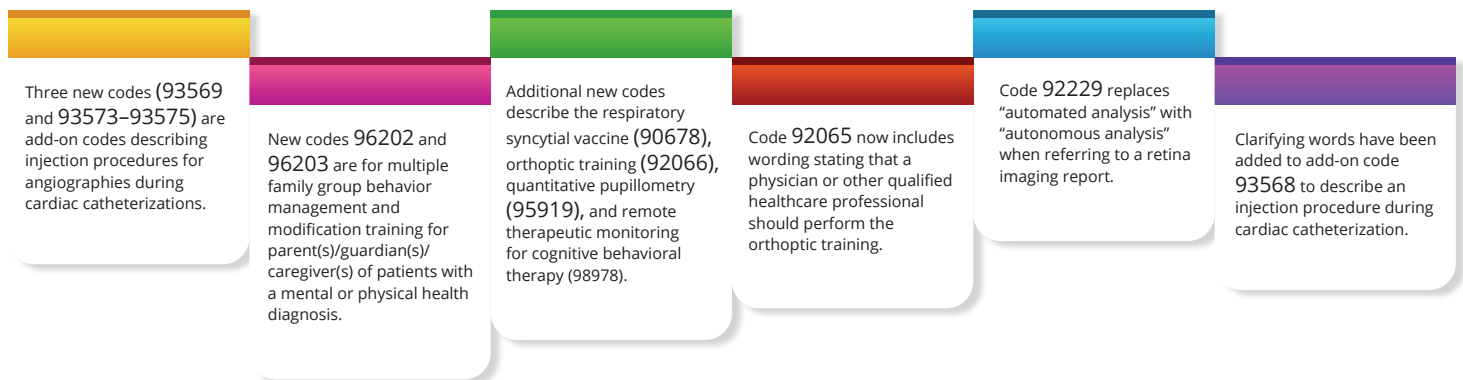
Radiology:

The radiology section gained one code 76883, which describes an ultrasound of the nerves and accompanying structures in one extremity. Five codes (76882,78803, and 78830–78832) have been revised in this section to include long descriptors.

Pathology and Laboratory:

There are 11 new codes and three revisions in the pathology and laboratory section:

Three new codes (81449, 81451, and 81456) describe targeted genomic sequence analyses.

Four new codes (87468, 87469, 87478, 87484) describe various infectious agent detections using DNA or RNA.

One new code (81418) has been added for drug metabolism analysis using a genomic sequence.

Another new code (81441) describes the detection of inherited bone marrow failure syndromes (IBMFS).

Code 84433 describes the detection of an enzyme called thiopurine S-methyltransferase (TPMT).

Code 87467 describes the detection of the hepatitis B surface antigen.

Medicine:

Three new codes (93569 and 93573–93575) are add-on codes describing injection procedures for angiographies during cardiac catheterizations.

New codes 96202 and 96203 are for multiple family group behavior management and modification training for parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) of patients with a mental or physical health diagnosis.

Additional new codes describe the respiratory syncytial vaccine (90678), orthoptic training (92066), quantitative pupillometry (95919), and remote therapeutic monitoring for cognitive behavioral therapy (98978).

Code 92065 now includes wording stating that a physician or other qualified healthcare professional should perform the orthoptic training.

Code 92229 replaces "automated analysis" with "autonomous analysis" when referring to a retina imaging report.

Clarifying words have been added to add-on code 93568 to describe an injection procedure during cardiac catheterization.

Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)

The HCPCS codes are a separate set of codes used to describe drugs, supplies, and certain other services not included in CPT. HCPCS codes describe non-physician services, such as ambulance rides, durable medical equipment, and prescription drug use whereas, CPT codes only indicate the procedure, not the items a provider used.[4]

In this system coding is broken down into two primary subsystems:

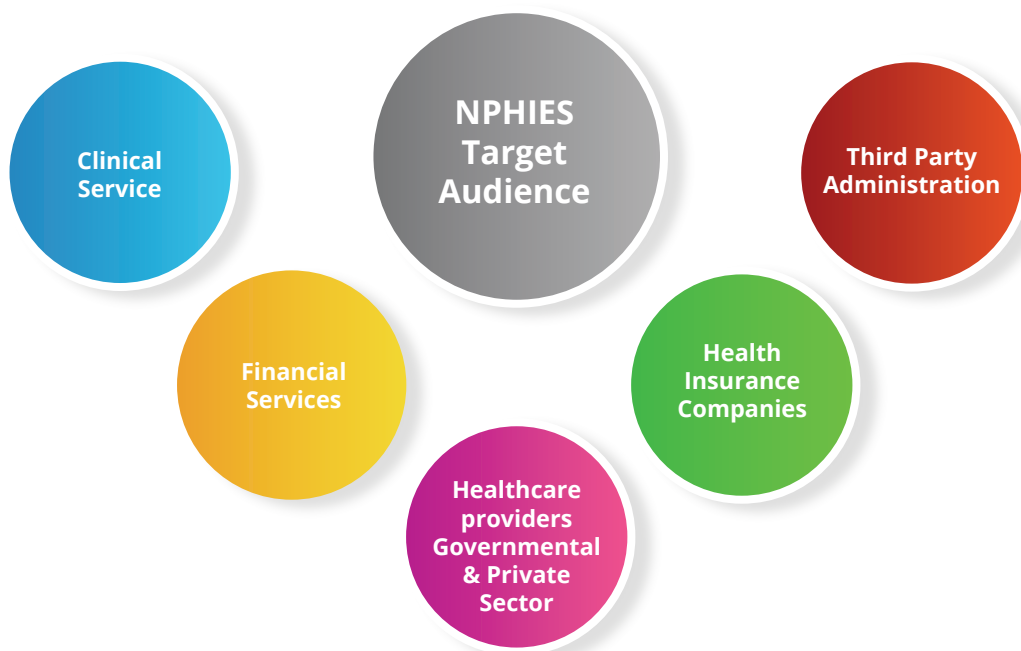| Level I codes	Leve II codes
They are based on Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and are used for services and procedures that are offered by healthcare providers.	They cover healthcare services and procedures that are not included in the CPT coding system but are still covered by and billable to insurance companies. Level II HCPCS procedure codes are not assigned in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi as the only code set for procedure coding is the Level I CPT codes.[5]

Nphies:

In Saudi Arabia, the National platform for Health and Insurance Exchange Services, NPHIES is designed to unify patient care records for healthcare providers and optimize insurance services. The major aim of this platform is to improve the efficiency and quality of health care services provided, and also reduce the cost and time of providing health care services. It projects to provide Consolidated, accurate and comprehensive data; supporting the achievement of Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) and Diagnosis Related Group (DRG). [6]

This system relies on the standardization of data and clinical coding for diagnoses, services, and care that are collected during the usual course of business. When using data collected through administrative claims to guide the transformation, standardization creates a common taxonomy about what healthcare services are being provided to which patients.

Impact of procedure and service codes in Claim processing:

Retrieve Medical Review or access Electronic health Record → Pre-Coding to validate system generated Codes → Review the medical records & assign CPTs & ICDs → Complete Audit for Compliance → Charge Entry & Claim Processing

Improved Medical Coding Efficiency Improves Your Bottom Line

The procedure of medical coding has made claims processing more efficient by reducing accounts receivable, increasing cash flow, reducing medical billing and back-end collection costs, decreasing the administrative burdens of tracking, writing off the bad patient debt, and managing the growing portion of practice revenue generated from patient payments.

Avoid healthcare fraud by improving the medical billing process:

It is observed that some types of medical fraud are intentional. Which can result in civil suits and criminal charges. Moreover, it takes a long time to detect fraud so, healthcare providers often face many charges once caught. The appropriate usage of medical procedure codes such as CPT and HCPCS codes is helpful against such frauds. [7]

In a recent case, New York Hospital Operator ended up paying over $4 million to settle alleged violations of federal and state regulations due to the submission of various incorrect and fraudulent claims to government health programs including Medicare.[8]

Most types of common medical fraud may be classified into the following categories: [9]

Excessive billing

Physician groups know the time required to diagnose and treat patients for a particular condition hence they are capable of detecting excessive billing. The procedure codes enable the physician to identify a practice that can treat a possible number of patients in a day.

Reporting a higher level of service than what is supported in the dictation (Upcoding)

As insurers pay more money for serious conditions hence upcoding helps to raise a practice's revenue. One psychiatrist was fined $400,000 due to upcoding. He billed for 30- or 60-minute face-to-face sessions with patients when, in reality, he was only meeting with patients for 15 minutes each to do medication checks.

Improper Medical Documentation

Improper Medical Documentation occurs when claims are submitted without medical records, allowing healthcare providers to increase their reimbursements by manipulating claims without triggering an audit.

Provide excessive services to patients

A common type of medical fraud is charging the insurer for unnecessary services that the patient needs or that were never even performed. To avoid such kind of fraud healthcare facilities should have procedure codes in place that effectively capture the charge for each service.

TOPIC 2: HEALTH UPDATES IN MIDDLE EAST REGION

UAE has introduced Traceable smart pills in medical diagnosis.

UAE has developed a new, non-invasive system to facilitate the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal motility disorders. To track the movement of an ingestible "smart pill" through the Gastrointestinal (GI) tract, the researchers have generated 3D magnetic field gradients using high-frequency electromagnetic coils. The smart pill measures and transmits the field magnitude to determine its precise location, which is then communicated to a smartphone using Bluetooth technology. Existing technology utilizes invasive procedures such as endoscopies or potentially harmful X-ray radiation, often requiring repeated hospital evaluation. The newly developed smart pill offers a view with a broader scope, non-invasive, convenient, and highly accurate.[10]

It is estimated that gastrointestinal disorders affect more than one-third of the world's population, making it crucial to develop more accurate and effective diagnostic and treatment approaches. because of the high prevalence of obesity, poor diets, and close marriage one-fifth of the population in UAE suffers from gastrointestinal diseases including reflux disease and fatty liver. [11]

UAE Health Authorities officially launch national drug tracking system "Tatmeen":

The UAE health authorities have officially launched "Tatmeen", the region's first platform of its kind to track and trace pharmaceutical products. The major aim of this platform is to ensure the immunity and security of medical supply chains on a single digital platform with more Convenience & transparency. The "Tatmeen" platform provides modern electronic tracking services for medicines and medical products to enhance the reliability of the supply chains of

pharmaceutical products. The platform will significantly enhance control over all medicines circulating in the country, by creating a seamless electronic network connecting federal and local authorities, factories, distributors, pharmacies, and consumers. The platform will also help position the UAE as a recognized global innovator in the field of medicine supply safety.
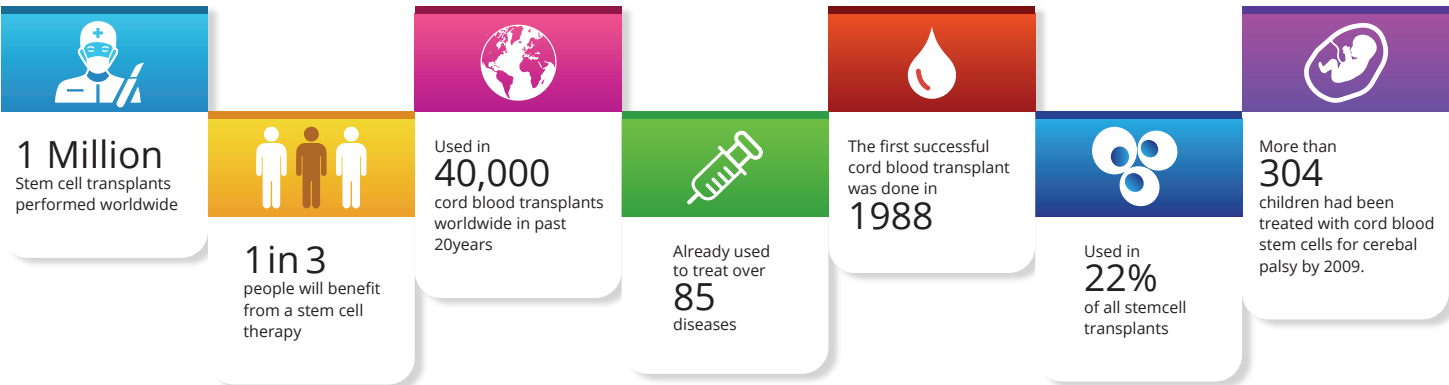
This platform is a top-tier national health project developed as part of the Ministry's ongoing digital transformation efforts. It simply scans a serial number and tracks every step of a pharmaceutical product's journey, from its origin to its expiration date. This joint digital platform is accessible through its website or smart app, offering convenience and transparency in the pharmaceutical industry.[12]

Dubai has initiated the first Cord blood and Research center (DCRC) for cord blood and cord tissue:
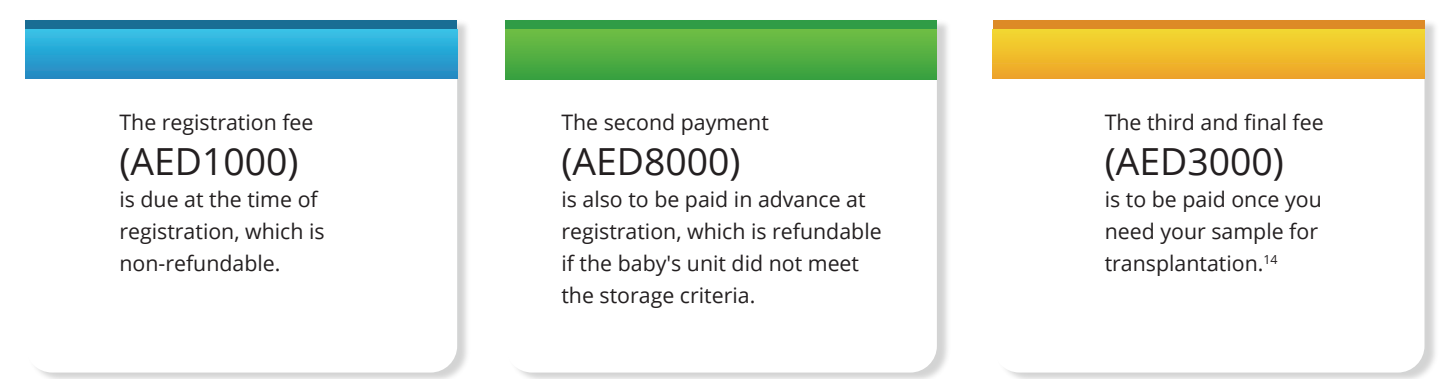
Cord blood banking services provide access to collecting, extracting, and cryogenically freezing umbilical cord stem cells helpful in treating more than 70 life-threatening diseases including types of leukemia, lymphomas, inherited immune system disorders, genetic disorders, neurological disorders, and more.

Cord Blood Today

1 Million
Stem cell transplants performed worldwide

1 in 3
people will benefit from a stem cell therapy

Used in 40,000 cord blood transplants worldwide in past 20years

Already used to treat over 85 diseases

The first successful cord blood transplant was done in 1988

Used in 22% of all stemcell transplants

More than 304 children had been treated with cord blood stem cells for cerebal palsy by 2009.

Dubai initiated the first and only governmental center of its nature, the Dubai Cord blood and Research center (DCRC). The UAE has passed a law requiring that all banks which collect cord blood in the UAE must use a laboratory in the UAE. It is illegal to ship cord blood out of the UAE.

The baby's mother-to-be needs to visit DCRC. Upon registration of the mother, the mother is asked whether she wishes to opt for the public or private banking of her baby's cord blood and stem cells. After this, the family's health history is conducted to check the eligibility of the potential baby's unit for storage. If the pregnant mother is potentially fit for storing her baby's cord blood unit, the settlement of the registration and storage package fees follows the baby's cord blood collection kit being handed to the mother. [13]

The registration fee
(AED1000)
is due at the time of registration, which is non-refundable.

The second payment
(AED8000)
is also to be paid in advance at registration, which is refundable if the baby's unit did not meet the storage criteria.

The third and final fee
(AED3000)
is to be paid once you need your sample for transplantation.[14]

Abu Dhabi launches flexible health insurance for entrepreneurs and investors:

The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DoH), in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has launched flexible health insurance options in Abu Dhabi to elevate the emirate's position as an attractive destination for entrepreneurs and investors that seek to live and work in the emirate, as well as broaden access to world-class healthcare services for all community members with the highest standards of quality and efficiency.

The new policy will reduce investors' costs and provide a world-class healthcare experience with the flexibility to match-make a healthcare package based on customer needs, geographical coverage, and benefits. The primary goal is to ensure that all members of the community in the emirate receive insurance coverage that enables them to obtain healthcare services by international standards and best practices.

The flexible health insurance policy benefits community members including private sector expatriates provided that their monthly income exceeds Dhs5,000. The flexible health insurance policy is characterized by insurance coverage for the costs of treatment services amounting to Dhs150,000 annually, 100 percent emergency coverage, 20 percent copay of the cost of all outpatient treatment services, and 30 percent copay for medications.[15]

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How we can help

Pricing and Predictive Analysis

Fraud Waste and Abuse

Cost Containment Alternative

Performance Monitoring and Analytics

Profit Optimization

Provide Network Structure

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