

The APMA “ICD-10 is Here” Coding Seminar & Webinar Series

Seminars:

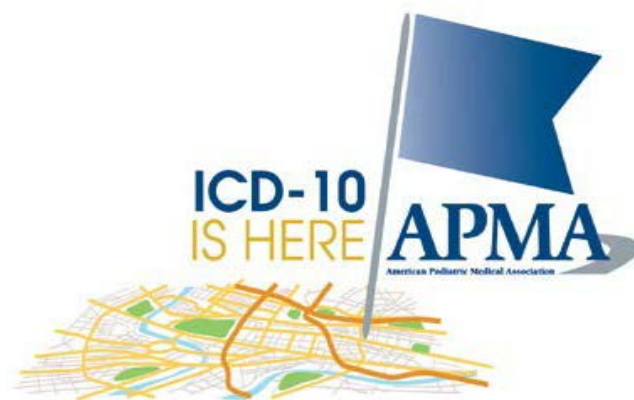
Atlanta: March 1

Chicago: April 2

Honolulu: July 27

Maui: July 28-31

Philadelphia: August 16



ICD-10 Webinars:

Held the first and third Thursday of each month
beginning in January, from 8–9:00 p.m. ET

Are you ready?

Register now at www.apma.org/icd10



CODING
SEMINARS

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FOOT AND ANKLE SPECIFIC ICD-9 TO ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CROSSWALKS



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The APMA Coding Resource Center has been made possible through an educational grant from Merz Pharmaceuticals LLC. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the APMA Educational Foundation Student Scholarship Fund.



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Contact APMA at coding.hpp@apma.org or 301-581-9200



CODING RESOURCES

APMA Coding Resource Center: ICD-10-CM and Crosswalks

The **APMA Coding Resource Center (CRC)** is a fully integrated subscription online coding and reimbursement resource for foot, ankle, and leg-relevant CPT®, ICD-9 and ICD-10-CM (Volume 1, 2), HCPCS Level II codes, and Medicare LCDs and fee schedules. *ICD-9 to ICD-10 crosswalks are now available on the CRC to help simplify your transition to ICD-10.* Pricing is currently only **\$249 for APMA members**. Visit www.apmacodingrc.org.

"ICD-10 is Here" Coding Seminar and Webinar Series

In order to meet the ever-increasing demand for information on coding policies specific to the practice of podiatric medicine and surgery, APMA will offer a series of stand-alone seminars and webinars in 2014, titled **"ICD-10 is Here"**. Visit www.apma.org/icd10.

The APMA Coding Seminar

The **APMA Coding Seminar** has become a staple at podiatry-related meetings and reaches over 10 percent of APMA's population on average in a given year through our partnership with state and regional components. The Seminar is designed to supplement your state or regional meeting. We encourage you to take advantage of this great member benefit at your next state or regional meeting. Visit <http://www.apma.org/YourPractice/content.cfm?ItemNumber=9831>.

Certified Surgical Foot and Ankle Coder (CSFAC)

APMA, in conjunction with the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC), has developed the **Certified Surgical Foot & Ankle Coder (CSFAC™)** examination to provide a means for podiatrists, billing staff, professional coders, and orthopedists to demonstrate their expertise in coding medical services and surgical procedures performed on the foot and ankle. Visit www.apma.org/csfac.

Codingline APMASilver (APMA Partner)

APMA is a strategic partner with Codingline (Codingline, LLC) which provides a forum for Codingline subscribers to ask foot and ankle coding and reimbursement questions. Codingline is offering APMA members complimentary **APMASilver** subscriptions. Visit www.codingline.com/apmasilver.htm.

“ICD-10 is Here” Seminar and Webinar Series / APMA’s Coding Resource Center Crosswalks

APMA has developed a Coding Seminar and webinar series, titled "ICD-10 is Here," (www.apma.org/icd10) in order to meet the ever-increasing demand for information on coding policies specific to the practice of podiatric medicine and surgery. APMA will offer a series of stand-alone seminars in 2014 to address the implementation of ICD-10. The seminars are scheduled for [Atlanta](#) (March 1), [Midwest Podiatry Conference](#) (April 2), APMA’s [ASM](#) (July 27), and [Philadelphia](#) (August 16). APMA is also sponsoring a series of “[ICD-10 is Here](#)” webinars scheduled the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Be sure to visit www.apma.org/icd10 as your hub of ICD-10 resources and to register.

Visit www.apma.org/icd10 for a series of preparatory ICD-10 articles from the [APMA News](#) on the rules and coding conventions. These will be followed every month with short articles and links to the APMA website with specific chapter articles on the rules and codes for each chapter and subchapter of relevance in ICD-10. ICD-10 codes and crosswalks have been added to the [APMA Coding Resource Center](#), [subscribe](#) now at the current low rate of \$249!

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Reimbursement Webinar Series

APMA has created a [webinar series](#) addressing reimbursement-related topics. The series starts in January with [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) and SGR Repeal](#) (January 16), [Medicare Incentive Programs in 2014: eRx, PQRS, HIT](#) (February 5), and [Understanding Medicare Advantage Plans](#) (March 4) and more will be added. To view the recorded webinars, along with presentations, visit [APMA Webinar](#) webpage.

Medicare Physician Payment Reform

APMA’s Health Policy and Practice and Legislative Departments have been actively involved in sustainable growth rate (SGR) repeal and Medicare physician payment reform advocacy efforts, writing comment letters to congressional committees and attending Q&A sessions. A three-month patch is now effective, preventing drastic cuts to Medicare physician reimbursement. Congress and the administration hope to repeal permanently and replace the SGR and reform Medicare physician payment before this short-term patch expires.

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)

APMA has created many ACO resources, including webinars and policy briefs, to educate members, which are located at www.apma.org/aco. APMA’s ACO Workgroup and Health Policy and Practice Department are currently assessing podiatrists’ involvement in ACOs. If you have information on this topic, please contact healthpolicy.hpp@apma.org.

Ankle Foot Orthotics – Carrier Activities

In February 2013, the DME MAC Jurisdictions announced that the AFO policy article, effective January 1, 2013, was being revised to remove the height restriction. These actions come after a concentrated effort by APMA’s DME subcommittee and outside stakeholders to reverse the new height restrictions. APMA believes the change to the height requirements was not backed by scientific evidence and therefore was inconsistent with the devices

many members prescribe. APMA [continues to monitor](#) recent AFO activities, including questions about specific Medicare coverage for the use of an ambulatory AFO for fall prevention as well as changes to LCD policies as those listed above. In the former issue, APMA has posted a [Coding Alert](#) on the website regarding the guidelines for AFO use.

Termination of Provider Contracts by Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs)

APMA has seen an increase in questions about how to respond to provider termination letters sent by MAOs. To assist members in their understanding of MAOs, APMA has developed numerous resources, including articles and FAQs that are now available online. Visit www.apma.org/reimbursement and click on Medicare. Also, APMA has written CMS, voicing discontent with MAOs' termination of provider contracts and requesting that CMS review MAO compliance with network advocacy requirements to ensure appropriate access to podiatrists.

Health-Care Reform Resources

Visit the APMA's Health-Care Reform page at www.apma.org/healthcarereform for comprehensive, up-to-date information about health-care reform.

TRICARE

On August 8, 2013, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) released a proposed rule that will allow DPMs to prescribe and dispense DME to TRICARE patients. It would end an unevenly administered policy and a disparity faced by podiatrists that APMA has long fought to overturn. APMA has been in contact with the DoD and TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) for more than five years in an effort to change this policy. APMA also has lobbied Congress to put pressure on DoD and TMA to end this disparity. Despite the long process, APMA is pleased with an end result that will

recognize podiatrists as eligible providers of DME under TRICARE.

Diabetic Therapeutic Shoe Update

On April 25, HR 1761, The Helping Ensure Life- and Limb-Saving Access to Podiatric Physicians (HELLPP) Act, was introduced in the 113th Congress by US Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE). The HELLPP Act includes multiple comprehensive reforms and goes further to ensure podiatric physicians will continue to save lives, limbs, and health-care dollars. The HELLPP Act will clarify and improve coordination of care in Medicare's Therapeutic Shoe Program for Patients with Diabetes. As part of this effort, APMA's health policy committee and APMA's health policy consultant helped create a provision that would clarify the role of a prescribing podiatric physician in terms of establishing medical necessity, and consequently ease the reporting burden on all physicians involved in the TSD program.

Routine Footcare Activities

APMA met with CMS in Baltimore in 2013 to address routine footcare activities. Previously, APMA and HPC staff approached Kathleen Bryant, Director, Division of Practitioner Services, Hospital and Ambulatory Policy, CMS, for an update on the status of APMA's request for revisions to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Section 290. APMA through HPC submitted a request for revision, as well as a draft version, and has met with CMS regarding this request. Ms. Bryant requested additional materials from HPC, which were provided. In addition, and with the assistance of APMA's health policy consultant, APMA developed a side-by-side comparison of current Medicare policy and our recommended revisions, along with related explanatory comments to facilitate further CMS consideration of APMA's proposed changes to the manual.

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Provider Non-Discrimination Provision

Included in the ACA is an important provision protecting DPMs from discrimination by health insurers. APMA and its partners in the Patient Access to Responsible Care Alliance (PARCA) successfully lobbied for its inclusion and are now working together to safeguard retention of section 2706, titled "Non-Discrimination in Health Care. APMA continues to monitor all repeal efforts by Congress to ensure that this provision remains in effect. APMA is also seeking to prevent any weakening of this provision by CMS and is currently responding to a CMS request for more information.

Physician Payment Sunshine Act

The Physician Payment Sunshine Act (PPSA) requires drug and medical device companies to report publicly payments and other gifts made to physicians, including podiatrists. It also requires companies to report information on ownership or investment interests held by physicians.

Members should be aware that companies began collecting data on August 1, 2013 and submit their first reports to CMS by March 31, 2014 for the August-to-December 2013 reporting period. Members should record payments and other gifts received from companies to check the accuracy of the companies' reports. Once CMS announces the method for physicians to check the accuracy of their data, APMA will disseminate this information. Physicians' data will be posted on a publicly available on-line database by September 30, 2014. To read APMA's policy brief on PPSA and answers to FAQs about PPSA, visit APMA's Health-Care Reform page at www.apma.org/healthcarereform.

HIPAA/HITECH Act

As a reminder, the final rule modifying the HIPAA Privacy, Security, Enforcement, and Breach Notification Rules, issued by the HHS Office of Civil Rights, required compliance on September 23, 2013 for covered entities and business associates. APMA's HIPAA resources, located at www.apma.org/hipaa, include templates for summary of notice of privacy practices, business associate agreement, risk analysis checklist, and many more.

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Health Policy Advocacy

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Center for Professional Advocacy (CPA)

CPA continues to provide direction for legal, regulatory, and state legislative advocacy activities. Visit www.apma.org/cpa for updates.

Scope of Practice

Recently, the CPA has assisted KSPMA, HPMA, and SCPMA in their scope of practice state advocacy efforts by providing letters of support, fact sheets, myth busters and statistics.

The APMA State Advocacy's Scope of Practice Resource Center, located at www.apma.org/scopeofpractice includes a compilation of state podiatric scope of practice laws as well as other tools, such as surveys and charts, to assist members and state component societies in their state scope of practice advocacy efforts.

eAdvocacy

Members should contact their federal and state legislators to advocate for fair and equitable treatment for podiatrists. Grassroots efforts, such as using the APMA eAdvocacy tool, located at www.apma.org/eAdvocacy are vital to affecting change.

Financial and Administrative Alignment State Demonstrations for Dual Eligibles

CMS partnered with 15 states to coordinate care for dual eligible beneficiaries through state demonstrations. The purpose of these state demonstrations is to identify and validate delivery system and payment coordination models to be tested and replicated in other states.

The financial alignment models being tested are the capitated model and the managed FFS model. The CPA has been engaged with the CPMA and IPMA who are concerned about podiatrists continuing care for their patients due the capitated model's passive enrollment feature.

The CPA has prepared a policy brief, located at www.apma.com/stateadvocacy on the Issue and Policy Briefs page, describing these state demonstrations, which also provides recommendations for podiatrists concerning participating in contracted health plans, maintaining relationships with dual eligible beneficiary patients, and advocating for patients and practices.

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