

## **New Codes for Headache**

One code change that will certainly affect chiropractors this year is R51. The R51 code for headache is being deleted and replaced. Code R51 is (was) the diagnosis code used for headache, with the following approximate synonyms:

- Cervicogenic headache
- Chronic facial pain
- Chronic mixed headache syndrome
- Chronic pain in face
- Craniofacial pain
- Daily headache
- Facial pain
- Facial pain, chronic
- Headache, cervicogenic
- Headache, chronic daily
- Headache, mixed
- Headache, occipital
- Headache, sinus
- Occipital headache
- Pain in face
- Sinus headache
- Sinus pain

There will be two new codes to replace R51:

- R51.0 Headache with orthostatic component, not elsewhere classified
- R51.9 Headache, unspecified

*\*\*To avoid denial, claims need to be coded to the highest level of specificity.*

Orthostatic headache is a condition in which a person develops a headache while vertical, and the headache is relieved when horizontal. Previously, it was often misdiagnosed as different primary headache disorders such as migraine or tension headaches. - Wikipedia

Based on this clarification, the common headache code replacing R51 would be R51.9 headache, unspecified, which would include all the synonyms noted above.

## **New Codes for TMJ Issues**

Used less frequently, but well within the scope of neuromusculoskeletal coding for chiropractors, there are some additions for temporomandibular joint (TMJ) issues. Chiropractors do treat TMJ conditions, which include codes for TMJ disorders M26.601 through M26.603; and sprain and strain of the jaw M26.621 through M26.629 and M26.31 to M26.639. The new additions specifically address arthritis and arthropathy for TMJ:

- M26.641 Arthritis of right temporomandibular joint
- M26.642 Arthritis of left temporomandibular joint
- M26.643 Arthritis of bilateral temporomandibular joint
- M26.649 Arthritis of unspecified temporomandibular joint
- M26.651 Arthropathy of right temporomandibular joint
- M26.652 Arthropathy of left temporomandibular joint
- M26.653 Arthropathy of bilateral temporomandibular joint
- M26.659 Arthropathy of unspecified temporomandibular joint

## **Code Changes for Other Joint-Related Disorders**

Other new codes involve joint-related disorders for “other specified joints”. These include:

- M19.09 Primary osteoarthritis, other specified site
- M19.19 Post-traumatic osteoarthritis, other specified site
- M19.29 Secondary osteoarthritis, other specified site
- M24.19 Other articular cartilage disorders, other specified site
- M24.29 Disorder of ligament, other specified site
- M24.39 Pathological dislocation of other specified joint, not elsewhere classified
- M24.49 Recurrent dislocation, other specified joint
- M24.59 Contracture, other specified joint
- M24.69 Ankylosis, other specified joint
- M24.89 Other specific joint derangement of other specified joint, not elsewhere classified
- M25.39 Other instability, other specified joint
- M25.59 Pain in other specified joint
- M25.69 Stiffness of other specified joint, not elsewhere classified

**\*\*Codes have been added to the Document Plus software via automatic update for users with a current support contract.**

**If you have questions or need assistance, contact Melanie at 888-588-6648**