

# National Correct Coding Initiative

Correct Coding Solutions, LLC  
A Medicare and Medicaid Contractor  
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January 26, 2016

Stephen P. Hoffmann, MD  
American Thoracic Society  
25 Broadway, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Steve G. Peters, MD  
American College of Chest Physicians  
3300 Dundee Road  
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2348

Ms. Denise Merlino, CPC, CNMT, MBA, ACCP/ATS  
Merlino Healthcare Consulting Corporation  
72 Hesperus Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Dr. Hoffmann, Dr. Peters, and Ms. Merlino:

I thank you for your emails beginning January 16, 2016 in which you alert us to a number of National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) procedure to procedure (PTP) edits that may be inappropriate. We discussed your correspondence with CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) which owns NCCI and makes all decisions about its contents.

The PTP edits relate to CPT codes 31652 (Bronchoscopy, rigid or flexible, including fluoroscopic guidance, when performed; with endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) guided transtracheal and/or transbronchial sampling (eg, aspiration[s]/biopsy[ies]), one or two mediastinal and/or hilar lymph node stations or structures) and 31653 (Bronchoscopy, rigid or flexible, including fluoroscopic guidance, when performed; with endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) guided transtracheal and/or transbronchial sampling (eg, aspiration[s]/biopsy[ies]), 3 or more mediastinal and/or hilar lymph node stations or structures). CMS will delete the PTP edits listed on the Attachment. These edits will be deleted in the April 1, 2016 version of NCCI retroactive to the implementation date of the edits, January 1, 2016. Your members may choose to delay submission of claims that might hit these edits until April 1, 2016. If services are denied due to these edits, they may be submitted for readjudication to the local A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor after April 1, 2016.

CMS and we appreciate your assistance with the NCCI.

Sincerely,

**Signed electronically by Niles R. Rosen, M.D.**

Niles R. Rosen, M.D.  
Medical Director  
National Correct Coding Initiative  
Correct Coding Solutions LLC  
Phone: 317-752-8735



Cc: Valeria Allen, CMS COR for the NCCI/MUE  
Marsha Mason-Wonsley, CMS Coding Specialist  
Linda Smith, CMS Director of DASG/DMA

Attachment (two pages)

**ATTACHMENT – The following code pairs will be deleted on April 1, 2016 in NCCI PTP Version 22.1 retroactive to their implementation date of January 1, 2016.**

<b><u>Column 1 Code</u></b> (Payable service)	<b><u>Column 2 Code</u></b> (Denied Service)
00100-01992	31652-31653
31600	31652-31653
31623	31652-31653
31624	31652-31653
31625	31652-31653
31626	31652-31653
31630	31652-31653
31631	31652-31653
31634	31652-31653
31635	31652-31653
31636	31652-31653
31638	31652-31653
31640	31652-31653
31641	31652-31653
31643	31652-31653
31645	31652-31653
31646	31652-31653
31647	31652-31653
31648	31652-31653
31649	31652-31653
31651	31652-31653
31660	31652-31653
31661	31652-31653
32096	31652-31653
32097	31652-31653
32098	31652-31653
32100	31652-31653
32110	31652-31653
32120	31652-31653
32124	31652-31653
32140	31652-31653
32141	31652-31653
32150	31652-31653
32151	31652-31653
32160	31652-31653

**ATTACHMENT (Continued) – The following code pairs will be deleted on April 1, 2016 in NCCI PTP Version 22.1 retroactive to their implementation date of January 1, 2016.**

<b><u>Column 1 Code</u></b> (Payable service)	<b><u>Column 2 Code</u></b> (Denied Service)
32440	31652-31653
32442	31652-31653
32445	31652-31653
32480	31652-31653
32482	31652-31653
32484	31652-31653
32486	31652-31653
32488	31652-31653
32491	31652-31653
32503	31652-31653
32504	31652-31653
32505	31652-31653
32506	31652-31653
32997	31652-31653
96570	31652-31653