

# Coder's Specialty Guide for Pain Management Review

By Dawn Cook, RN, CLCP, CNLCP



**Keywords:** Reference, Review, Pain Management

The **Coder's Specialty Guide for Pain Management** from the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) is a comprehensive coding guide for coding pain management medical care which includes code descriptions, tips, CCI edits, ICD-10 information, and much more.

Life Care Planners can benefit from this print or electronic book to assist in accurately determining the correct codes for future medical care related to pain management. I found this book to be comprehensive and complete. In its 527 pages, there is complete directions on finding the information professionals need. Updated coding books are provided for purchase each year. The 2023 issue should be released in early 2023.

## Specialty Coders Guide Compared to CPT Guides, Digging Deeper

Life Care Planners can use the definition of a medical CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) code from the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT coding books are published by the American Medical Association (AMA) each year with rules and guidelines for the AMA's CPT Editorial Panel. If you want to dig a bit deeper to understand the anatomy, injury, treatment and pain management goals, this book will bring you closer to your goal. Compared to a standard CPT coding book, this "Coders' Specialty Guide" is divided into sections to assist with deeper comprehension of this medical specialty.

## CPT Codes:

First, each code, even somewhat related to pain management, are arranged in numerical order. The first section (from pages 5 to 307) includes codes from CPT code 10035 to 99499 that may be related to pain management.

### Each code has information to help further understand the code.

1. There is a code definition first.
2. Then "Clinical Responsibility" describes what is actually done.
3. Often there are coding tips such as what code might go with this code, and sometimes, what code is primary and must be included if you use this code. This helps you decide on the actual code and if any add on codes are needed.
4. CCI Alerts (National Correct Coding Initiative) is a long list of codes that are not usually allowed when this code is used.
5. Finally, there is a ICD-10 Cross Ref, so if the ICD is known, it can be checked to see if this is a code that might be used.

Many procedure codes have a diagram of the relevant anatomy and how the test or treatment may be given. This is helpful if you are trying to decide between a few codes.

### HCPCS Codes:

The second section is for pain management HCPCS codes, such as temporary codes, medications and others.

The temporary codes have been created by the AMA for new or emerging treatments and usually are a 5-digit numeral, followed by a capital "T." These have a longer clinical responsibility section, explaining in great detail what is included in these codes. There are also coding tips and CCI Alerts, and ICD-10 CrossRef.

The final section (in the 2022 copy, from pages 367 to 512) has ICD-10 codes in alphabetical and numerical order, with the definition.

**Modifiers:** Finally, there are ten pages with modifiers that may appear on bills to be added to the CPT code for better clarity.

**Terminology:** There is a terminology section if some of the medical terms are unfamiliar. (12 pages.)

**Code Index:** The code index is all of the CPT codes in this book, in numerical order, with the page the information is located upon.

**Use for Medical Billing Analyses:** Medical Billing Analyses need medical billing code information to accurately interpret past medical bills and compare them to their corresponding medical records for validity. This guide will be very helpful in viewing old bills as well.

### Overview:

There is so much information in this specialty coding guide regarding the proper coding for pain management services, including office visits, testing, procedures and medications. This specialty coders book will be a great asset to the life care planner wanting to be more precise in coding for pain management care.

### Where to Get this Book:

The AAPC Coders' Specialty guide for Pain Management includes detailed information about each code that is related to pain management, including physician visits, physician procedures, related labs, and diagnostic imaging. Also included are rules and tips on correct coding and the NCCI (National Correct Coding Initiative) edits or alerts. There is a cross-reference to the related ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) codes.

The Coder's Specialty Guide for Pain Management is available from the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) and can be purchased on their website <https://www.aapc.com/>. This guidebook is available each year in paper or e-book format or as both the paper and e-book in a bundle. The 2023 issue will be available in January 2023.



# REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

## Follow social distancing guidelines

## Thank a caregiver, be kind and take care of each other!

