



BEYOND CODING: ENHANCING REVENUE INTEGRITY WITH AUTONOMOUS MEDICAL CODING



Autonomous medical coding solutions are most often leveraged to improve medical coding quality and efficiency, but the technology's benefits for revenue integrity should not be overlooked. By ensuring consistent charge capture, boosting CPT and HCPCS coding accuracy, and simplifying compliance with payer policies, autonomous coding solutions like Nym's engine enhance revenue integrity and ultimately improve financial performance for healthcare organizations.

Ensures Consistent Charge Capture

One of the most significant challenges in maintaining revenue integrity is ensuring consistent and accurate charge capture. Hard codes (e.g. CPT codes and HCPCS codes) are directly tied to the charges that healthcare providers bill to payers, and any missed or incorrect charge can lead to significant revenue loss or compliance issues. Traditionally, this process relies heavily on manual input and EMR automated processes, which is prone to errors such as missing charges or duplicating services.

Nym's autonomous medical coding engine reduces these risks by deciphering the clinical documentation and capturing all charges. Orders not being mapped to a charge or system malfunctions such as a broken EMR button failing to drop a charge are concerns of the past. Additionally, the engine prevents excessive charges by coding purely based on clinical documentation –if it's not documented, it's not charged.

Boosts CPT and HCPCS Accuracy

Revenue integrity depends not only on capturing charges but also on applying the correct codes. CPT and HCPCS codes are the backbone of healthcare billing, as they represent what services and/or procedures a facility or provider has provided to a patient. Additionally, they dictate how much a provider will be reimbursed for services rendered. Errors in assigning these hard codes can lead to claim rejections, delays in payment, or compliance issues that require time-consuming and costly corrections.

Nym's autonomous medical coding engine enhances the accuracy of hard coding by ensuring that all CPT and HCPCS codes applied to charges are valid (e.g. outdated CPT codes would never be assigned by the engine). If a charge has an invalid CPT code associated with it, the engine identifies the discrepancy and sends back the valid CPT code. This automated validation process reduces the risk of rejected claims and minimizes the need for manual intervention to resolve charging discrepancies.

Simplifies Compliance with Payer Policies

Navigating the complex world of payer policies and guidelines is a significant challenge for revenue integrity teams. Every payer has specific coding and documentation requirements that are not updated on any set schedule, and failure to comply with these guidelines can result in denied claims or delayed payments. In a traditional revenue cycle workflow, this necessitates back-end billing corrections, increasing administrative overhead and prolonging the payment cycles.

Nym's autonomous medical coding engine offers a solution to this challenge. It is configured to align with specific payer guidelines, taking into account different payer policies around modifier application or covered procedures, for example. Additionally, Nym's engine is quickly updated when new policies are enforced by managed care payers. Together, this increases clean claim rates and reduces the lift for revenue integrity teams typically responsible for monitoring and adding charge rules and/or edits.