THE HIM DIRECTOR'S GUIDE TO AUTONOMOUS MEDICAL CODING

This guide helps health information management (HIM) leaders understand how autonomous medical coding technology integrates with existing workflows and addresses key challenges facing HIM and coding departments today. The following sections outline coding capabilities, workflow considerations, performance metrics, and organizational impacts.

Today's Medical Coding Challenges

Burnout & Retention Challenges

- **Administrative Burden** driven by staffing challenges and increasingly complex regulatory guidelines
- **High Turnover** costing departments thousands in recruitment and training

Workflow Challenges

- **Complex Workflows** forcing coders to continuously shift their focus and adapt to different code classification systems
- **Resource Management Challenges** including training offshore/contracted resources and managing quality and compliance issues

Coding Capabilities and Workflow

Autonomous medical coding solutions deliver end-to-end capabilities that handle diverse code sets and healthcare settings while maintaining compliance and accuracy standards across the revenue cycle.
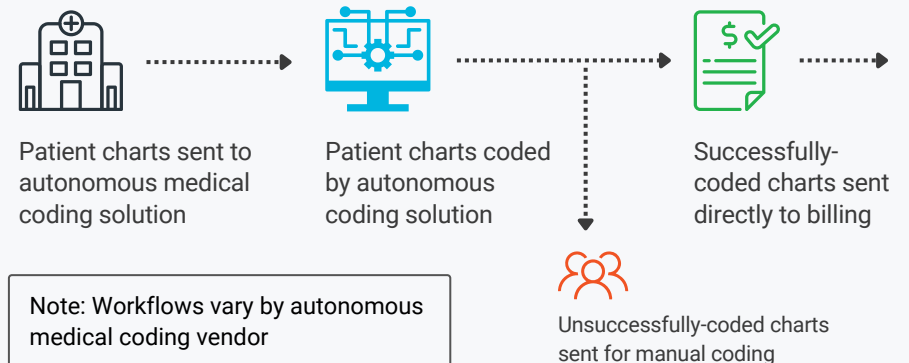
Comprehensive Coding Capabilities

- **Intelligent Code Assignment** – automatically assigns CPT, ICD-10-CM, and modifiers
- **Comprehensive Coverage** – including Evaluation & Management codes
- **Precision & Compliance** – ensuring accurate billing & reimbursement

Built for Any Setting

- Inpatient and Outpatient Facility
- Provider-Based Services
- Single Path Workflow

Autonomous coding technology also seamlessly integrates with existing healthcare systems to create more efficient and consistent coding processes. Coding scope and supported code sets may vary by autonomous medical coding solution.

Patient charts sent to autonomous medical coding solution

Patient charts coded by autonomous coding solution

Successfully-coded charts sent directly to billing

Note: Workflows vary by autonomous medical coding vendor

Unsuccessfully-coded charts sent for manual coding

Proven Impact on HIM & Coding Teams

Address Burnout & Retention Challenges

- **Eliminate mandatory overtime and paid time off (PTO) restrictions —** autonomous coding reduces backlogs, enables flexible scheduling, and improves work-life balance
- **Improve staff satisfaction and retention -** automated routine coding creates advancement opportunities and reduces turnover-related costs

Real-World Example: After implementing Nym's autonomous coding engine for emergency department (ED) facility coding, Inova, a top health system, eliminated all overtime requirements for ED coders, removed PTO limitations, and promoted four ED coders to higher complexity areas.

Solve Workflow Challenges & Drive Cost Savings

- **Streamline coding operations -** by automating the coding of routine encounters, autonomous coding solutions create consistent, predictable workflows and eliminate the need for offshore or contract coders
- **Improve DNFC (Discharged Not Final Coded) metrics -** most autonomous coding solutions can code thousands of charts per hour, significantly reducing the volume and age of encounters awaiting coding and thereby improving cash flow
- **Reduce coding costs -** autonomous coding solutions deliver substantial cost savings through labor arbitrage, typically offering lower cost-per-claim than traditional in-house coding teams or Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) alternatives

Real-World Example: After implementing Nym's autonomous coding engine for ED facility coding, Inova eliminated their need for contract coders, reduced annual ED coding costs by $500K, and reduced the revenue sitting in weekly DNFB by 50%.

Specialty-Specific Performance

Specialty	Typical Automation Rate
Emergency Department	60-70%
Outpatient Surgery	50-65%
Primary Care	55-75%
Radiology	70-85%

Note: Automation metrics represent industry averages and may vary by vendor, implementation approach, and documentation quality

The automation rate represents the percentage of total encounters coded by the autonomous medical coding solution. This rate typically increases over time as machine learning algorithms process more data. Autonomous medical coding solutions may route encounters to manual coding teams in certain cases, such as:

- Incomplete or missing documentation in patient records
- Ambiguities in physician notes
- Complex case requirements

Next Steps for HIM Directors

- Read Nym's latest **customer success story** with Inova, the top health system in northern Virginia
- Schedule a time to **chat with Nym's team** and discover the ROI that Nym's autonomous coding engine can have for your organization