



Coding CORNER



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Welcome to the first issue of *Maxim Coding Corner*! As a leader in the HIM industry, [Maxim Health Information Services](#) (MHIS) is committed to providing you with updates on coding-related topics that matter to you. Throughout the year, you can look forward to receiving valuable information right in your inbox. We want to hear your feedback, too - if there is a coding issue that you would like to learn more about, let us know!

Interventional Radiology Coding Introduction

In this issue, we are focusing on Interventional Radiology (IR) coding - a difficult and often misunderstood type of coding. Read below to learn key facts about this type of coding. Also be sure to visit our [online job board](#) to search for positions nationwide in this coding specialty and many others. Our jobs are updated frequently, so check back often to view new opportunities!

Interventional Radiology Facts:

- Component coding since 1992.
- More recently, these codes are taken out of the Chargemaster and HIM coders are asked to code these episodes.
- Coders need to know how to use the entire CPT book and be very familiar with human anatomy.
- Two different components of this type of coding: Surgical component and S&I component (Supervision and Interpretation).

Coding certifications are now offered to identify those that have expertise in this type of coding.

Things to Remember When Coding for IR:

- Code to the highest order within a vascular family.
- If the catheter is not manipulated any further from the insertion point, code non-selective catheter placement.
- Each vascular access should be coded.
- Each vascular family should be coded to its highest order of selection.
- Do NOT code non-selective catheter placements if done at the same puncture site as a selective vascular placement unless there is an additional puncture site in a different location.

The aorta is always a non-selective catheter placement.

Industry Example:

Below is an interventional radiology coding problem that you may

About Maxim Health Information Services

Maxim Health Information Services is a division of Maxim Healthcare Services, the largest privately held healthcare staffing company in the nation. As part of a large business enterprise and a leader in the industry, MHIS can help take your career to the next level. Now more than ever, hospitals and medical facilities understand the importance of hiring HIM staff to increase their bottom line. This has opened the door to many new career opportunities in the health information industry. MHIS staffs positions for on-site coders, remote coders, auditors, and more.

encounter when coding for this specialty. See if you can determine the correct code(s) to use in this situation before reading the solution.

PROBLEM:

The catheter is inserted into the left common femoral artery. The catheter is positioned into the right internal carotid and then placed in the left internal carotid artery. At this point, the catheter is placed into the left external carotid artery.

SOLUTION:

36217 - RT
36216 - LT
36218

Remember: don't append modifiers onto add-on codes, as they take on the modifier of the parent code.

To learn more about Maxim Health Information Services and interventional radiology coding, [visit us online](#) or call 866-265-0589.