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## 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

Welcome to the September issue of Maxim Coding Corner<sup>SM</sup>! As a leader in the HIM industry, [Maxim Health Information Services](#) is committed to providing you with updates on coding-related topics that matter to you.

This month, we are focusing on coding for anesthesia. Read below to learn key information about this area, and be sure to visit our [online job board](#) to search for a variety of coding positions nationwide. Our jobs are updated frequently, so check back often to view new opportunities!

### Introduction to Anesthesia

Anesthesia is defined as a loss of feeling or pain. This term may also be used to describe medications that prevent feelings of pain during surgery or other procedures.

### Quantities: Time Versus Units

Anesthesia time begins when the anesthesiologist/CRNA physically prepares the patient for the induction of anesthesia, and ends when the person performing the anesthesia service is no longer in constant attendance.

### 15-Minute Time Units

CPT codes 00100-01999 must be submitted using quantities of 15-minute time units. (EXCEPTION: Medicare crossover claims and CPT anesthesia procedure code 01953.)

### Base Units

Base unit values have been assigned to each anesthesia procedure code and reflect the difficulty of the anesthesia service, including the usual pre-operative and post-operative care and evaluation.

When coding anesthesia services, the coder will calculate the time units. In the case of a fraction, the coder will round-up if five or more or round down if four or less.

*EXAMPLE A:* Total anesthesia time = 95 minutes/15 = 6.3. Total time units claimed = 6.

*EXAMPLE B:* Total anesthesia time = 70 minutes/15 = 4.6. Total time units claimed = 5.

positions for on-site coders, remote coders, auditors, and more.

Past issues of Maxim Coding Corner are now available online! Visit [the new Coding Corner page](#) on our Web site to download Coding Corner issues you may have missed.

For all anesthesia services, the coder will determine the base units for the code assigned. The coder refers to CodeCorrect for this information. The coder will enter the total time and base units in the quantity field for that code.

*EXAMPLE C:* Time units (6) + base units (7) = 13 entered in quantity field.

In the comments field, the coder will enter the start & end times of the anesthesia, time units, and base units.

*EXAMPLE D:* Start time: 1:00. End time: 2:10. Time units = 5. Base units = 8.

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