

Documentation Refresher

It is very important that the documentation on the anesthesia record is as detailed and descriptive as possible. Some of the key areas that could result in a higher base unit value (which essentially will result in a higher reimbursement) are the following:

- ✓ If a bone graft was used in the procedure, document what type of graft was used (if an iliac bone graft was used this could be an increase of up to 2 base units).
- ✓ If a spinal procedure is performed with instrumentation (plates, screws, etc.) and documented on the anesthesia record this could be worth up to 5 more base units.
- ✓ If a lymph node excision was performed (for example, during a mastectomy) this could result in an increase of up to 2 base units.
- ✓ If a procedure is performed with One Lung Ventilation (OLV), be sure to document this on your anesthesia record. This could be worth up to 3 additional base units.
- ✓ If a Cystoscopy procedure is performed that resulted in the removal, manipulation, or destruction of a calculus/calculi be sure to document this in detail (including where the stone was retrieved from) to receive a base unit increase of up to 2 units.
- ✓ If a heart procedure is performed without the use of a pump oxygenator and documented appropriately on the anesthesia record this could result in up to a 5 base unit increase.
- ✓ If a heart procedure is performed with the use of a pump oxygenator and it was a "re-do" CABG or valve procedure, as long as it is documented appropriately this could result in base unit increase of up to 2 units.
- ✓ If a cardiac defibrillator case is performed and documented appropriately to include whether the "threshold" testing was performed (with detail) or not performed, this could result in a base unit increase of up to 3 units.
- ✓ Surgical arthroscopy procedures should be documented in detail. This may result in a base unit increase.
- ✓ If an intraperitoneal procedure is performed, document whether it was performed in the upper or lower abdomen. If performed in the upper abdomen this could result in an increase.
- ✓ Cervical spine/intracerebral procedures performed and documented appropriately on the anesthesia record in the "sitting" position could result in 2 or 3 more base units.
- ✓ Fracture procedures should be documented in full detail including whether the procedure was performed on the proximal, distal, or shaft area of the bone. This may result in a base unit increase/decrease of 1 or 2 units.

ARM has provided pocket-size informational cards to each of our clients. Please contact us if you would like to receive some of these handy reminder cards.