

CAPSULE

Updated Fee Schedule

HealthLink has updated its fee schedules with rates and proprietary Grouper Methodology for the 2009 CPT codes. These rates will be effective 05/01/09. ASA base units have been updated to reflect current values. For more information, please contact your Network Consultant.

HealthLink to Accept NPI-Only Claims on All Electronic Transactions

HealthLink is now using the NPI for electronic provider transactions. This number is used to identify various types of providers and is critical when doing business with HealthLink. For more information, please refer to the article on page 2.

Please Make Referrals According to Agreement

Your HealthLink agreement requires that you refer patients who are HealthLink enrollees to HealthLink participating providers. More on page 2.

HealthLink is Going Green

As of January 1, 2010 all HealthLink newsletters, manuals and other communications will be available online only. Do you have Internet access? For more information, see the tear-off card on this newsletter.

IN-TOUCH

PHYSICIAN UPDATE

PREPARED BY HEALTHLINK FOR PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS 1st QTR 2009

Normal Cognitive Aging, Cognitive Decline, and Alzheimer's Disease: What's the Difference?

The following is an excerpt from the National Institute on Aging report, "Progress in AD Research Continues," Updated 01/06/09

As knowledge grows about normal cognitive aging, Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and the stages in between, it is increasingly evident that there is no clear line between a completely healthy brain and a diseased brain. Evidence shows that most people develop some plaques and tangles in their brains as they get older, but not everyone develops cognitive problems, amnesic MCI (aMCI) or AD. At what point does an age-related process become a disease-causing process? Several recent studies have explored this question.

Recent Advances

Evidence from the Religious Orders Study and the Memory and Aging Project—two community-based epidemiologic studies conducted by Rush University Medical Center scientists—indicated that about one-third of individuals between the ages of 82 to 85 who did not have clinical dementia or aMCI when they died still met the neuropathologic criteria for intermediate or high likelihood of AD. In earlier tests of memory and other cognitive functions, those who met the AD neuropathologic criteria scored a little lower on tests of episodic memory (the ability to place

information in long-term storage for later retrieval) than other study participants but showed no differences on other cognitive domains.

The development of Pittsburgh Compound-B (PiB) has allowed scientists to take huge steps forward in their understanding of normal and abnormal age-related changes in the brains. PiB is a radiolabeled compound that binds to beta-amyloid plaques in the brain and can be imaged in living people using positron emission tomography (PET) scans. Two recent studies

conducted by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine and the Centre for PET in Victoria, Australia, showed that approximately 20 percent of 66- to 86-year-olds with normal cognition showed positive PiB binding, indicating an abundance of beta-amyloid in the brain.

These and other findings show that studies to explore further the interface between a pathological process (formation of beta-amyloid plaques) and the aging process are both feasible and necessary. Future studies will clarify the relationship between AD brain pathology and the eventual diagnosis of aMCI and AD, as well as when the diagnosis can be made with certainty.

Read the entire report at <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/ADProgress2007/>



PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Meet David Holtzman, MD



David Holtzman, MD

Washington University
School of Medicine
Department of Neurology

David Holtzman is the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor of Neurology and Developmental Biology. He is also head of the Department of Neurology, the Associate Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and a member of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders.

Dr. Holtzman attended the Honors Program in Medical Education at Northwestern University receiving his B.S. (1983) and M.D. (1985). He did medical internship followed by Neurology residency at UCSF from

1985-1989. He then did post-doctoral research training in the lab of William C. Mobley, MD, PhD, at UCSF from 1989-1994. At UCSF, he also established the Memory and Cognitive Disorders Clinic and was an Assistant Professor from 1991-1994. He moved to his own laboratory at Washington University in December of 1994. He was named as the Associate Professor of Neurology in 2001, Professor in November of 2002, and as the Andrew and Gretchen Jones Professor and head of the

Department of Neurology in October 2003. In addition to his laboratory, administrative, and teaching duties, Dr. Holtzman is involved in clinical and research activities at the Washington University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Washington University
School of Medicine
Department of Neurology
660 S. Euclid Ave.
St. Louis, MO 62110
314-362-9872

CLAIMS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY WITH HEALTHLINK LEGACY IDENTIFIERS NO LONGER ACCEPTED

As of February 21, 2009 HealthLink no longer accepts claims submitted with HealthLink Legacy ID numbers, even if they also include the NPI. Any claims submitted with Legacy IDs will be rejected and will require resubmission with only the NPI.

You can access documents relating to NPI at www.healthlink.com/nppes.asp

Additionally, the NPI provides ongoing access to various online provider services, ProviderInfoSourceSM and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems. Claims using the HealthLink Legacy ID number filed prior to February 21 will still be available. However, your NPI is required to access this information.

If you have not registered your NPI with HealthLink, please do so by completing our online Physician Address/Name/TIN/NPI Change Form. Please note, the Tax Identification Number (TIN) is required even when billing with the NPI number. Some providers are exempt by law from NPI requirements. These providers will be permitted to submit HealthLink Legacy IDs if they are properly loaded into our exempt provider database.

If you have additional questions regarding your NPI, contact your HealthLink Network Consultant. For Missouri, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties in Illinois, call 314-923-4987. For others, call 877-284-0101, ext. 7074. For additional information about NPIs or to obtain an NPI, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services web site.

Are You Referring HealthLink Enrollees to HealthLink Participating Network Providers?

Most of HealthLink's contracted health plans have benefit provisions that provide the maximum level of coverage when plan participants use the services of HealthLink network participating providers. When you refer to network participating providers, your patients generally pay less out-of-pocket than if they are referred to a non-participating provider. This can mean the difference between thousands of dollars in certain cases.

Your HealthLink agreement requires that you refer patients enrolled in a health plan that accesses the HealthLink networks to participating physicians and facilities, including lab, radiology, DME suppliers and specialty drug providers.



When you refer to network participating providers, your patients generally pay less out-of-pocket than if they are referred to a non-participating provider.

CODING CORNER

Q: When a hernia is repaired laparoscopically, is the insertion of mesh separately reportable?

A: No, the insertion of mesh is included in the new for 2009 laparoscopic hernia repair codes 49652-49657 and should not be reported separately. Parenthetical notes were added following these codes to indicate this. In addition, these codes also include adhesiolysis performed laparoscopically (code 44180), so that should not be reported separately either. Code 49568 was also revised for 2009 and now includes the word open. This code should only be used when mesh is inserted during an open incisional or ventral hernia repair.

Source: CPT Changes 2009, pg 80-81

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to see addressed in this section, please notify your Network Consultant.

HEALTHLINK'S BRUCE GOSSER RETIRES

Bruce Gosser, Vice President and General Manager of both HealthLink and WellPoint's Workers' Compensation divisions, retired February 15, 2009.

Bruce spent his entire career in the health care field and was instrumental in the formation of HealthLink. (Bruce was



Bruce Gosser

HealthLink's first employee in 1984.) After his return to the company in 1999, Bruce headed up the Sales, Account Management and Network Management divisions, and in 2007 led HealthLink into the successful expansion markets of Chicago, Texas and the Mid-Atlantic region. Most recently, he directed WellPoint's integration efforts for Workers' Compensation.

Bruce has been a trusted leader and colleague to HealthLink clients, payors, providers and associates, and we are confident you will join us in wishing him much happiness throughout his retirement. A successor is to be named in the very near future.

Through this transition and beyond, HealthLink is committed to the same excellent service, network access and health care cost savings that it has delivered over the years. We highly value the business relationship with our providers and look forward to working together throughout 2009.

Happy Anniversary, HealthLink!

October 22, 2009 is HealthLink's official 25th anniversary but the celebration will continue throughout the year. In addition to on-site and other local festivities, we have teamed up with Our Little Haven to co-sponsor a dinner auction, golf tournament, fashion show and 5k run as well as other events and associated publicity. Our Little Haven is an independent, non-profit agency providing care for children since 1993.

We are proud of our achievements over the past 25 years:

- ❏ HealthLink's regional provider networks are available by contract to more than 200 payors of health benefits, including insurers, TPAs, union trust funds and employers.
- ❏ Our growing service area includes Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Texas, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC.
- ❏ We contract with more than 75,000 physicians and other health care professionals and more than 300 hospitals and facilities. HealthLink started as a provider-sponsored PPO, and we are grateful for the collaboration and support of the doctors and medical centers that participate in our programs.
- ❏ We serve nearly one million medical enrollees and more than two million Workers' Compensation enrollees.
- ❏ We offer PPO, CompManagement and Open Access network programs, as well as access to comprehensive wellness and cost management programs and administrative services made available through WellPoint.

Mary Ellen Detrick, Director of Grievance & Appeals, was one of the original HealthLink associates. "Since its inception, HealthLink has always been committed to balancing the needs of participating health care providers and contracted payors and their enrollees. I believe our success can be measured, in large part, by our commitment to delivering value to all constituents, and our willingness to treat all our customers with candor and honesty."

Bruce Gosser, recently retired Vice President/General Manager, was HealthLink's first employee and was instrumental in the formation of the company in 1984. "It has been one of my greatest pleasures to be part of HealthLink," Bruce says. "We have built a proud tradition of outstanding service to our diverse customer base while continuously achieving profitability and growth."

Please join HealthLink in celebrating 25 years of profitable business and industry leadership.



Any information included in this newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for medical care or advice provided by a physician. Any reference in the material to other organizations or companies, including Internet sites, is not an endorsement or warranty of the services, information or products provided by those organizations or companies. HealthLink does not assume responsibility for any circumstance arising out of the use, misuse, interpretation or application of any of the information in this newsletter.

REMINDER

**DO WE HAVE YOUR
CURRENT INFORMATION?**

Have you relocated? Going into solo practice? Do you have a new Tax ID number?

Please be sure to inform us of these types of changes as soon as possible. You can contact your Network Consultant or visit HealthLink's web site, www.healthlink.com to update your information. From the main menu, go to the "Physician/Hospital" home page and in the "Forms and Manuals" section, click on the "Physician Address/Name/TIN" change form. If you are moving to a new practice, be sure to include both your former practice and new practice TINs.

Please note that failure to notify HealthLink of these changes could result in claim processing delays as the payor verifies current information.

HealthLink®, Inc., is an Illinois corporation. HealthLink, Inc. is an organizer of independently contracted provider networks, which it makes available by contract to a variety of payors of health benefits, including insurers, third party administrators or employers. HealthLink has no control or right of control over the professional, medical judgment of contracted providers, and is not liable for any acts or failures to act, by contracted providers. HealthLink, Inc. is not an insurance company and has no liability for benefits under benefit plans offered or administered by payors. HealthLink® is a registered trademark of HealthLink, Inc. and a separately incorporated and capitalized subsidiary of WellPoint, Inc.

Welcome to *IN-TOUCH!*

IN-TOUCH is created by HealthLink specifically for participating physicians, hospitals and other health care professionals. Our goal in creating *IN-TOUCH* is to bring HealthLink and participating physicians closer together by providing information that will be helpful to you and your staff. We welcome your ongoing feedback.

IN-TOUCH ROUTE LIST

Route among your staff...

- ▶ Dr. _____
- ▶ Dr. _____
- ▶ Office Manager
- ▶ Claims Administrator
- ▶ Marketing Director

Inside:

Alzheimer's Disease	1
Network Update	2
NPI Requirements	2
Coding Corner	2
Gosser Retirement	3
Happy Birthday, HealthLink	3

IN-TOUCH

Editorial Board: Robert Sorrenti, M.D., Chief Medical Officer; Mary Ellen Detrick, Director of Grievance & Appeals; Donna Free-Wiese, Manager II, Network Relations; Susan French, Manager, Marketing/Communications; Laura Hargate, Manager II Nurse Medical Review; Susie McDonald, Managing Editor
Comments or suggestions: (800) 624-2356



HealthLink, Inc.
12443 Olive Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63141
www.healthlink.com

PPSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 1977



Celebrating 25 Years of Business Thank You, HealthLink Providers!

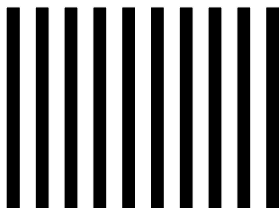


HEALTHLINK IS GOING GREEN!

Help us save the environment! As of January 1, 2010 all HealthLink newsletters, manuals and other communications will be available online only. Reducing our carbon footprint is an important step toward minimizing the load on our landfills.

If you do not have Internet access or if you would prefer to receive communications by mail, please complete the information below or contact your Network Consultant.

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1949 SAINT LOUIS MO

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

HEALTHLINK
NETWORK SERVICES
12443 OLIVE BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141



CONTACT NAME

OFFICE NAME/PROVIDER NAME

CONTACT EMAIL (IF APPLICABLE)

MAIN OFFICE ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP

CONTACT PHONE

CONTACT FAX

TAX ID NUMBER

NPI NUMBER

GOING GREEN HELPS THE EARTH.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS INITIATIVE!