



## +Insight

### CPT Editorial Panel Meeting: What's on the Agenda and Why It Matters

#### Introduction

The CPT®<sup>1</sup> Editorial Panel will meet in New Orleans, Louisiana, from September 21 to 23, 2023. As published by the American Medical Association (AMA), the [agenda](#) for the meeting includes proposals to create new current procedural terminology (CPT) codes and to revise or delete existing codes. Entities that typically attend the meetings include physicians representing their medical specialty societies, representatives from industry, and public and private payors. According to the AMA [website](#), the Summary of Panel Actions (a document prepared after each meeting) for the September 2023 meeting will be posted on October 20, 2023.

#### What is the CPT® Editorial Panel?

The CPT Editorial Panel is responsible for maintaining the CPT code set, which was developed in 1966 to describe medical, surgical and diagnostic services performed by physicians and other qualified healthcare professionals. The panel meets three times each year—typically in February, May and September—to review requests for changes to the CPT code set, such as adding or deleting a code or modifying existing nomenclature.

#### The September 2023 Agenda

The September 2023 meeting is the last meeting in the 2025 CPT and Medicare Payment Schedule cycle. That means that, in general, changes approved at the September 2023 meeting will become effective in the 2025 CPT code book and will be considered by Medicare as part of the 2025 rulemaking cycle for payment system updates like the Physician Fee Schedule or Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Prospective Payment Systems. With certain exceptions (e.g., pathology codes, Category III codes and editorial revisions), requests considered at the next CPT Editorial Panel Meeting in February 2024 will have to wait until CPT 2026 and the 2026 Medicare rulemaking cycle for consideration.<sup>2</sup> Because it is the last opportunity for consideration for the upcoming CPT and Medicare cycles, the September meeting agenda is often jam-packed. This September's agenda is no different.

The September 2023 meeting agenda was posted to the AMA website on July 14, 2023, and included 75 separate requests (referred to as "tabs"). The following is a high-level breakdown of the types of requests on the agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

<sup>2</sup> This is a timeline for items that require review through the AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update (RUC) Process and inclusion in the annual CMS proposed rule. Only code-change applications that are determined, upon panel review, to be editorial revisions and/or not to require RUC review (e.g., Laboratory issues) and are submitted after the June application deadline will appear in the publication for the previous year.



### Overview of the September 2023 Panel Meeting Agenda\*

TYPES OF REQUESTS	# OF REQUESTS
Requests for Category I codes	32
- New Category I codes	27
- Revisions to existing Category I codes	5
Requests for Category III codes	25
- New Category III codes	21
- Revisions to existing Category III codes	4
Requests to convert Category III codes to Category I status	4
Requests for new or revised Category I Pathology or Lab codes	4
Number of applications withdrawn, as of September 15, 2023	14
Number of applications on the consent agenda, as of September 15, 2023	20

\*Current as of September 15, 2023.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related Code Change Applications

The September agenda also includes a number of requests for new Category III codes that appear to include some type of AI-, algorithm- or software-based application for imaging services. Requests for new codes that include an AI component have been increasing steadily in recent years. In response, at its September 2021 meeting, the panel accepted the addition of a new Appendix S to provide guidance for classifying various AI/augmented intelligence applications (e.g., expert systems, machine learning and algorithm-based services) for medical services and procedures into one of three categories: assistive, augmentative or autonomous. This appendix for coding guidance went into effect on January 1, 2022.

### Appendix S: Artificial Intelligence Taxonomy for Medical Services and Procedures

SERVICE COMPONENT	ASSISTIVE	AUGMENTATIVE	AUTONOMOUS
Primary objective	Detects clinically relevant data	Analyzes and/or quantifies data in a clinically meaningful way	Interprets data and independently generates clinically meaningful conclusions
Provides independent diagnosis and/or management decision	No	No	Yes
Analyzes data	No	Yes	Yes
Requires physician or other QHP interpretation and report	Yes	Yes	No
Examples in CPT code set	Computer-aided detection imaging (77048, 77049, 77065-77067, 0042T, 0174T, 0175T)	Continuous glucose monitoring (95251), external processing of imaging data sets	Retinal imaging (92229)

Source: CPT® 2023 Professional Edition.



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The CPT Editorial Panel process is an evolving one. In recent years, the growing number of new medical services and technologies that include some type of AI and/or software application has necessitated new frameworks within CPT, like Appendix S, to provide guidance for classifying such services in a manner that adheres to CPT coding and nomenclature conventions. The McDermott+Consulting team can offer substantial knowledge and experience at the intersection of CPT and coding and reimbursement matters specific to new technologies (including, but not limited to, AI and software-based applications). To learn more about these capabilities, [click here](#).



For more information, please contact [Rachel Hollander](#), [Deborah Godes](#) or [Marie Knoll](#).

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