



# Inspector Detector



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## “Drive By” Renal Angiogram with Heart Catheterizations “Don’t Pay”

What is a “drive by” renal angiogram when performed with a cardiac catheterization? It is simply the failure to “select” or “enter” the renal artery with the catheter tip while performing a cardiac catheterization, yet billing a renal angiogram. This coding error could cost your company thousands of dollars each time a cardiac catheterization is performed.

How do you prevent this from happening? Review providers who bill cardiac catheterizations and look for renal angiogram CPT code 75722, 75724 and 36245. Determine how often your providers bill renal angiograms with heart catheterizations. Unless the patient has a correlating ICD-9 diagnosis to support the need for renal studies, it may not be medically appropriate (necessary).

Next, check the physician’s documentation to determine if a renal angiogram was performed. A “drive by” language often states the catheter was placed in the aorta near the renal arteries then contrast injected. The contrast will illuminate the aorta and some of it may seep into the renal arteries; however, unless the contrast is injected directly into the renal arteries, it is a “drive by.” For reimbursement of a renal angiogram, documentation must state the catheter was advanced into one or both renal arteries. Look for key words such as; “catheter advanced selectively” or “selective” when referring to a billable renal angiogram or code 36245 (catheter placement).

Lastly, if a “drive by” is performed with a cardiac catheterization, it must be reported as HCPCS code G0275. If a provider bills code 36245 with imaging code 75722 or 75724, but lacks a renal ICD-9 diagnosis, suspect a “drive by.” Better yet, let TC<sup>3</sup> scrutinize your claims to avoid payment of “drive bys.”

*The Inspector Detector is a complimentary benefit to TC<sup>3</sup> payer clients. It is our hope that the newsletter will serve as one more vehicle in our ongoing Fraud Awareness Training & Education campaign for our clients. Please refer potential fraud cases to our Fraud hotline at 866-949-3711.*

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