

CPT® Codes: A Shared Language Enabling the Delivery of Quality Care

What Are CPT® Codes?

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes are a uniform language that describes medical services and procedures patients receive.

A Cornerstone of Health Care: CPT codes enable smooth, accurate information exchange in a data-driven health system, helping to simplify patient care.



WHY CPT CODES MATTER



- **Shaping Health Care**: CPT codes define how health care is delivered and measured, leading to better health outcomes, lower costs, and quality patient care.
- **Cost-Effective**: CPT codes are developed and maintained annually at no cost to the U.S. government.
- **Enabling Innovation**: CPT translates cutting-edge treatments and value-based care into actionable, standardized codes.
- Preventing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse: CPT codes mitigate unnecessary medical costs and intentional upcoding and misuse.



How CPT Codes Are Created

- **Expert Input**: The American Medical Association (AMA) convenes practicing physicians and health care professionals to contribute based on real-world patient care.
- **Regular Updates**: The CPT Editorial Panel ensures codes reflect the latest medical advancements, maintaining accuracy and efficiency.

THE 3 CPT CODE CATEGORIES

Category Medical procedures and services that have proven clinical effectiveness

Category II — Performance measurement

Category III — Emerging technologies and experimental procedures



CPT CODES BY THE NUMBERS

50+ years

Trusted by the government and health care community

1,000+

Participants provide input on code creation per meeting

11,000+

CPT codes in use today

3x/year

Deliberations on CPT code updates

>120

Preventive codes across all segments of health care

\$0

Cost to the U.S. government for development and maintenance

The AMA's Role



UNMATCHED EXPERTISE

As the largest association of physicians, the AMA leads the CPT process with scale, integrity, and real-world clinical expertise.



NEUTRAL CONVENER

The AMA brings together stakeholders from across industry, commercial health plans, federal agencies (CMS, FDA, and CDC), physicians, and other providers from 100+ specialty organizations to ensure diverse perspectives are included.



TRUSTED LEADERSHIP

The AMA balances clinical nuance, policy complexity, and public trust to maintain this essential system.

CPT codes are essential to supporting effective patient care and outcomes.

CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association