



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

Coding & Billing in Acute Care Surgery

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Highlights:

- **Detailed Procedure Coding:** Acute care surgery billing involves using specific CPT codes for the surgical procedures performed. Accurate coding requires detailed documentation of the type, complexity, and duration of the surgery, as well as any additional procedures or complications.
- **Modifiers and Adjustments:** Modifiers may be used to indicate variations in the surgical procedure, such as increased complexity or multiple procedures performed during the same session. Proper use of modifiers ensures accurate reimbursement and reflects the full scope of care provided.
- **Time-Based and Global Period Billing:** Billing for acute care surgery may include time-based components (e.g., for extended surgical times) and global period billing, which covers pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care. It's important to understand the global period associated with the surgery to properly account for all related services.
- **Documentation and Justification:** Comprehensive and accurate documentation is essential to support the billing process for acute care surgery. Detailed records of the patient's condition, surgical interventions, and any complications help justify the services billed and ensure compliance with payer requirements, reducing the risk of denials or audits.