

# Physician Coding for Carotid Artery Stenting (CAS)

- Please refer to the “Payment for Carotid Artery Stenting Procedures” document (located in the payment tab in the reimbursement section on [www.carotid.com](http://www.carotid.com)) for physician reimbursement information related to CAS procedures.
- **The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a coding guidance stating that physician claims reporting CPT code 37216, Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s); cervical carotid artery, percutaneous; without distal embolic protection, are not covered, even in circumstances where the physician attempted to place the distal embolic protection device and was unable to do so due to anatomical anomalies or other complicating factors.**<sup>1</sup>

## ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes<sup>2</sup>

433.10: Occlusion and stenosis of precerebral arteries; carotid artery without mention of cerebral infarction (**Report this code as primary diagnosis for Medicare patients meeting eligibility criteria for coverage. Failure to report the above diagnosis for Medicare patients may result in claim denial.**)

433.11: Occlusion and stenosis of precerebral arteries; carotid artery with cerebral infarction

433.30: Occlusion and stenosis of precerebral arteries; multiple and bilateral, without mention of cerebral infarction (**For Medicare patients with bilateral stenosis, report this code as a secondary diagnosis and report 433.10 as the primary diagnosis.**)<sup>3</sup>

433.31: Occlusion and stenosis of precerebral arteries; multiple and bilateral, with cerebral infarction

<sup>1</sup>CMS Manual System, Pub 100-04: Medicare Claims Processing, Transmittal 911, April 21, 2006.

<sup>2</sup>The Educational Annotation of ICD-9-CM, Reno, NV; Channel Publishing Ltd. Copyright 2007. Craig D. Puckett, Fifth Edition

<sup>3</sup>Medlearn Matters Number MM3811, updated February 8, 2006.

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# Physician Coding for Carotid Artery Stenting (CAS)

CPT® <sup>4</sup> Code*	Code Description
37215	Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s), cervical carotid artery, percutaneous; with distal embolic protection (includes all catheter placement, imaging and PTA)
37216	Transcatheter placement of intravascular stent(s), cervical carotid artery, percutaneous; without distal embolic protection (includes all catheter placement, imaging and PTA)

\*Please note: It is important to document all existing conditions or comorbidities that classify a patient as being at high risk for CEA, as defined by Medicare or non-Medicare, private payers. The ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes for such conditions or comorbidities should be listed as secondary diagnoses.

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