

AUGS Coding and Reimbursement Committee Guidelines for Industry Interactions and CPT Code Applications

The AUGS Coding and Reimbursement Committee occasionally receives requests from industry representatives to provide coding advice, review and/or support of CPT Code applications before submission to the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT Editorial Panel, and/or develop specific coding education for AUGS members.

The information below is offered as a guide for consideration of industry requests. AUGS retains the discretion to alter these guidelines or take any actions deemed appropriate in responding to any request. Requests will be considered based on their relation to improving care for urogynecology patients and their treating physicians.

All requests must be submitted to Coding@aug.s.org using the [submission form](#).

Note: Because AUGS is not on the CPT or RUC Advisory Committees, it can support industry by reviewing / submitting applications, but AUGS is unable to offer comments during those meetings as the Society does not hold an official seat on either committee.

Types of Requests

Please refer to the following chart and the types of requests AUGS will and will not consider along with the minimum timeframe for which requests must be submitted.

Request Type	Required Minimum Submission / Review Timeframe	Engagement that is Permissible	Engagement that may be Permissible, Depending on the Circumstances	Engagement that will NOT be Considered
Subsidizing device or drug costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None at this time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None at this time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnering with industry on requests related to subsidized pricing for drugs or devices

Request Type	Required Minimum Submission / Review Timeframe	Engagement that is Permissible	Engagement that may be Permissible, Depending on the Circumstances	Engagement that will NOT be Considered
General coding, coverage and/or reimbursement questions and/or requests for comment/support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coding questions must be received a minimum of two weeks prior to the monthly Coding & Reimbursement Committee call. • Requests to serve as a convener for multi-stakeholder discussions on coding / coverage policy-related matters must be received at least two weeks prior to the committee call. The timeline to convene stakeholders would be set by the committee and would be dependent upon the scope of the request. • Requests for comment support must be received 3 weeks prior to the comment deadline. • A timeline for response to other requests will be set by the committee upon initial review of the request. Exceptions may be made for expedited requests such as sign on letters or coverage policy comments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking meetings with industry to discuss general matters related to coding, coverage and/or reimbursement without <u>giving recommendation or providing an endorsement</u> of a particular service, product or technology is generally permissible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking meetings with industry to discuss matters related to coding, coverage and/or reimbursement for specific technologies or services may be permissible, provided the discussion remains focused on general policy issues, coding frameworks, or reimbursement pathways applicable to the broader service category, rather than advocacy for the adoption, valuation, or preferential treatment of a manufacturer's specific product. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking meetings with industry to discuss endorsement or advocacy on behalf of a proprietary technology or service. • Requests that seek society sponsorship or direct involvement in coding, valuation, or coverage efforts tied to a particular manufacturer's technology or service are not appropriate.

Request Type	Required Minimum Submission / Review Timeframe	Engagement that is Permissible	Engagement that may be Permissible, Depending on the Circumstances	Engagement that will NOT be Considered
CPT Code Change Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests to review CPT Code Change applications must be received 6 weeks prior to the submission deadline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing CPT Code Change Applications requested by industry for the purposes of providing feedback, consultation, or support provided materials are submitted in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting CPT code change applications on behalf of industry, or as a co-applicant with industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussing CPT code change applications after submission to CPT.
Coding Education for Members (Fact Sheets, Webinars, and/or Coding Workshop)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests for member education or guidance on an existing code must be received a minimum of two weeks prior to the monthly committee call. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests to educate members on coding best practices and/or new or revised CPT codes. Education must be developed independently by the Coding and Reimbursement Committee and will be applicable to all devices / products that are applicable to the code. AUGS is able to accept unrestricted educational grants and/or sponsorship to support time and effort associated with developing education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of an independent continuing education grant to develop education at the request of industry. Education is limited to CPT code-related updates or changes and/or education around CPT code usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education developed by industry partners and presented by AUGS Coding and Education Committee. Education specific to one device or product.

Process

Prior to providing any guidance or engaging in any conversation, a completed application request must be submitted to coding@augus.org. All requests will be vetted and cataloged by AUGS Coding Consultant, McDermott+, prior to discussion by the AUGS Coding and Reimbursement Committee.

Depending upon the nature of the request, the AUGS consultant will either schedule a call with the industry partner to obtain additional information and/or will place the item on the next scheduled Coding and Reimbursement Committee call for discussion.

Requests must be submitted within the minimum timeframe as outlined in the above chart to be considered.

The AUGS consultant will relay the outcomes of Coding and Reimbursement Committee discussion within 3 business days of committee meeting.

Advance Materials

Companies that wish to receive guidance from the AUGS Coding and Reimbursement Committee should complete and submit [this form](#) to coding@aug.org:

- Summary of the request (e.g., new/revised CPT code, reimbursement, cover, prior authorization, research, guidance on existing code, etc.)
- A description of the device(s) and the mechanism of action
- A description of the procedure that uses or places the device
- Any information regarding FDA clearance or FDA status
- Any information on known available coverage
- Copies of peer-reviewed publications of studies on the device
- Use of the device/product/procedures – i.e. adoption

AUGS consultant will review all the materials provided and if there were questions, would either send an email asking for this additional information or invite the company to join an upcoming Coding and Reimbursement Committee conference call.