

TAXONOMY CODE FOR REFLEXOLOGISTS

The article below is reprinted from the Reflexology Association of America (RAA) magazine *Reflexology Across America*, Winter Issue, 2008. RAA President Opal Knowles officially approved the definition of “Reflexologist” on December 19, 2007, as shown below the article.

Please note: Alternative Billing Codes (ABC) had been defined, approved and assigned Reflexology billing codes for insurance billing purposes through the work of RAA, ARCB, and nationally known Reflexologists Kevin & Barbara Kunz. The ABC codes can only be used by certified and licensed Reflexologists in their state of practice (two states have Reflexology licensing laws: North Dakota (a License Law); and Tennessee (Registration Law), or by those who are licensed health care providers.

The ABC codes are now used by both medical and CAM practitioner/providers. HIPPA regulations require that health care providers who use codes (CPT or ABC) to bill/receive reimbursement from insurance companies must obtain a National Provider Identification (NPI) number and choose a Taxonomy Code (identifies the provider and their specialty areas, i.e., Pediatric Surgeon, Pediatric Nurse, Reflexologist etc. when billing for insurance coverage). Reflexology did not have an assigned Taxonomy Code to identify a ‘Reflexologist’. RAA member Kendall Eckert, RCR, discovered this when he wanted to use the ABC codes and attempted to get a NPI number. His story is below.

RAA sends a special ‘Thank You’ to Kendall for being the first to attempt to use the codes for insurance reimbursement purposes, discovering the oversight, and for contacting the NUCC to correct the situation.

RAA Member Obtains Taxonomy Code for Reflexologists

By Opal Knowles



Kendall Eckert, RCR, DR

In June 2007, when the Alternative Billing Codes (ABC) online billing system (www.eClaim.biz) became available for use by CAM therapies such as Reflexology, I sent out an email to our members advising that the system was available for use.

A RAA member, Kendall Eckert, RCR (Registered Certified Reflexologist) from Tennessee (TN has a Reflexology Registration Law; ND has a Reflexology License Law), applied to use the new system but found that it was impossible to do so without first applying for a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number required under HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). To get the NPI number, a Taxonomy Code was required. Taxonomy Codes are an administrative code set for identifying the provider type and area of specialization for health care providers. Reflexologists did not have an assigned Taxonomy Code.

Kendall was instrumental in securing the Taxonomy Code for Reflexologists. He did the research and wrote to the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) asking that a code be assigned for Reflexologists. “I was delighted to receive an email from Stephanie Moncada, Secretary for the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) on 10/18/07

and it reads: I just wanted to let you know that the NUCC has approved adding the Taxonomy Code for reflexology. The code will be added in January of 2008 and take effect April, 1, 2008.”

Kendall went on to say: “This is great news for all reflexologists. This means that certified Reflexologists* qualify to apply for the National Provider Identification Number (NPI) after January 1, 2008. I started working on the NUCC application form back in June of 2007 on behalf of our reflexology profession. With this NUCC approval adding this code I believe it will benefit our profession and give Reflexologists a closer step toward working with the health insurance companies and we will be better able to work with primary care physicians for the betterment of their patient's and our reflexology clients. In the near future, I will have more details to share with the membership on how to go about getting their personal ID number (where to go on the web for forms, rules, and the Taxonomy code. There is still much work to be done. This is one of the first steps forward.”

The definition for “Reflexologist” used by the NUCC for the Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code set is based on the American Reflexology Certification Board definition of Reflexology (ARCB), 2007 and the recommended minimum 200 hours of education. ARCB and RAA will be referenced in the NUCC Code sets to be released January 2008 and take effect April 1, 2008.

*Note: Reflexologists must be licensed in the state in which they work.

APPROVAL:

From: Opal J Knowles [mailto:opal122@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 10:09 AM
To: Stephanie Moncada
Cc: RAAPres@reflexology-usa.org; info@arcb.net
Subject: Re: Definition of a Reflexologist

Good morning, Stephanie

As President of the Reflexology Association of America, I approve the definition of Reflexologists shown below, and the use of the Reflexology Association of America, www.reflexology-usa/standards.html, as a reference for the Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code set.

Sincerely,

Opal J. Knowles, LR, NBCR
President
Reflexology Association of America

THE REQUEST:

On Tue, 18 Dec 2007 09:51:58 -0600 "Stephanie Moncada" <Stephanie.Moncada@ama-assn.org> writes:

Good morning. My name is Stephanie and I am the Secretary of the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) and we maintain the Health Care Provider Taxonomy Code set. I am writing because we have added a taxonomy code and definition for Reflexologist that will be included with our January 1st release of the code set (effective April 1, 2008). I just wanted to make sure it was ok that we are referencing your organization's in our definition. Please review the below definition and respond if you are ok with us referencing your organization. Thank you for your assistance!

Reflexologists perform a non-invasive complementary modality involving thumb and finger techniques to apply alternating pressure to the reflexes within the reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands, and outer ears. Reflexologists apply pressure to specific areas (feet, hands, and ears) to promote a response from an area far removed from the tissue stimulated via the nervous system and acupuncture meridians. Reflexologists are recommended to complete a minimum of 200 hours of education, typically including anatomy & physiology, Reflexology theory, body systems, zones, meridians & relaxation response, ethics, business standards, and supervised practicum.

Source: National Uniform Claim Committee (based on the American Reflexology Certification Board definition of Reflexology), 2007

Additional Resources:

Foot and hand reflexology is a scientific art based on the premise that there are zones and reflex areas in the feet and hands which correspond to all body parts. The physical act of applying specific pressures using thumb, finger and hand techniques result in stress reduction which causes a physiological change in the body. Reflexology is a non-invasive, complementary modality involving thumb and finger techniques to apply alternating pressure to reflexes shown on reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands, and outer ears.

American Reflexology Certification Board, www.arcb.net/definiti.htm; Reflexology Association of America, www.reflexology-usa.org/standards.html

Thanks,
Stephanie

Stephanie Stahl-Moncada, MS
Secretary, NUCC