

AAOM Establishes New CPT Advisory Task Force

As a result of inquiries from across the nation, the American Association of Oriental Medicine (AAOM) has announced the formation of a new task force, the CPT Advisory Collaborative. The fifteen-person task force is comprised of representatives from across the nation. The purpose of the Collaborative, in part, was to prompt collective and broad-based action to correct an error made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that is causing significant and unnecessary harm to patients who utilize acupuncture for their health conditions and to the practitioners who serve them.

The AAOM Board of Directors selected two California-based practitioners to act as Co-Chairs, Shane Burras, MTOM, LAc, and Connie Taylor, LAc. (Reference bios below). The monthly task force meetings have been held April 7, and April 28. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2005.

Task Force Goals:

- Identify issues with the 2005 CPT codes;
- Establish and implement an action plan to address issues identified with the 2005 CPT Codes;
- Establish a National Evidence of Benefits (EOB) database that is populated through submission by the practitioner community at-large to determine reimbursement issues and provide education and guidance to assist in appropriate evaluation of the profession's services;
- Share common information and to educate the practitioner community via public dissemination of information;
- Educate commercial industry and assist in appropriate policy and procedure, and provide guidance on appropriate evaluation of CPT codes;
- Establish a unified presence working with the AMA.

Formal Actions of the Task Force:

National EOB Database: To achieve the initial goal of establishing a National EOB database, the task force designed

an online EOB database format to include the following submission fields:

- Insurance Company (Name and Address)
- Date of Service
- Procedure Codes Billed: 97810, 97811, 97813, 97814
- Allowed Amount
- Approved Amount
- Paid Amount
- Reason for Denial
- Comments Field (If codes were combined, this information should be placed in comments field)

Task Force members request that practitioners submit their EOB information interactively online at www.aaom.org. The submittal form is located in our Library, under the Forms Section. Ongoing Task Force updates will be provided via AAOM's Online News Alerts. If you are not a member, and are not subscribing to receive AAOM News Alerts, you may do so by emailing: info@aaom.org.



Shane Burras, MTOM, LAc, spent 18 years in the commercial insurance industry before transitioning into the career of his choice as an acupuncturist. He graduated from Yo

San University and recently completed his acupuncture orthopedics training. He practices in both Beverly Hills and Thousand Oaks and teaches seminars in Commercial Insurance Billing. Currently, he is the acting Chair of the Insurance Committee for Acupuncture and Integrated Medicine Specialists (AIMS – CA).



Connie Taylor, LAc, Co-Chair, President, California State Oriental Medical Association (CSOMA), attended Royal University in Los Angeles, became licensed in

1990. Taylor practices in California and is founder of Family Acupuncture Clinic.