

Dear SASCRO Colleagues,

The SASCRO Committee discussed our professional coding fees at a meeting on 4 Mar 2019. It was recognized that this is a complex issue and that all sections of the Oncology community are stakeholders. SASCRO does not have the capacity to revise the codes itself. However, SASCRO can play a facilitative role. We invite comments to be sent to office@sascro.org before taking this further. It will be placed on the Agenda at our AGM in August.

BACKGROUND:

The original RPL Coding was formulated in consultation with actuaries and SAMA. It was based on payments for procedures. The formulation of the codes included extensive measurements of time for procedures.

Subsequently, a bundled fees system was compiled by one of the managed care organizations to simplify administration so that 2 systems came into being. For stereotaxis, a bundle fee model was also compiled by one of the stakeholders and generally adopted. These fees have increased according to inflation.

However, there have been relatively few modifications for changing practice and for newer technologies. Some newer technologies are not included in the present coding system and the relative payments for existing procedures should be revisited. For example, IMRT/VMAT is in many instances an effective and cost-effective approach to universal healthcare.
<http://sascro.org/2018/09/28/sascro-statement-on-imrt-or-vmat/>.

Consultation fees for chemotherapy might also be revisited as currently, fees for Clinical and Radiation Oncologists seem relatively low.

WAY FORWARD:

SASCRO, through its private practice subcommittee, invites comments from all its members. SASCRO wishes to have an inclusive approach, including those with links to Equra, Netcare and Life Health based facilities as well as other facilities.

The feedback received from members will be collated through the SASCRO Committee. Possible further actions will be discussed at the SASCRO AGM in August.

A possibility is that a subcommittee might then be formed to draw up specs for a revised coding system. These could be put out to tender for compilation by a third party. SASCRO would plan to cover the associated costs.

Please could you send any comments on the above to office@sascro.org by 3 May 2019.

Kind Regards,

Wilhelm van Zijl – Head of Private Practice subcommittee
Raymond Abratt – SASCRO Chair.