

Effects of RAC Audits on K Level and Foot Selection in the Transtibial Prosthetic User Population

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Abstract

Recovery audits (RA), have been reported to effectively cause a decrease in the number of high-activity Medicare Functional Classification Level (MFCL) prescriptions as well as high-activity foot L-Codes. We hypothesized a decrease in high-activity MFCL prescriptions and prosthetic foot L-Code selection in the transtibial prosthetic user population since the RA implementation.

Methods: A survey was sent to O&P listserv members to approximate the beginning of the RA implementation period, which was found to be in first 6 months of 2011. OPIE software served as the data source for retrospective data from 10 facilities across the United States. From the collected dataset, there were a total of 3728 prescriptions available. 2015 of these prescriptions fell into our exclusion criteria and were not included in this study. There were a total of 1713 prescription with MFCL via foot LCodes and 868 practitioner-assigned MFCL available for analysis.

Results: Practitioner-assigned high-activity MFCLs had a significant decrease of 33% ($p < 0.001$) and prosthetic foot LCode selections had significant decrease of 39% ($p < 0.001$) since the RA implementation. Significant changes in high-activity foot selection were identified among Medicare (< 0.001), private (< 0.001), and worker's compensation (0.04) insurance patients. These results confirm our hypothesis of a decrease in high-activity MFCL and prosthetic foot LCode selection.

Discussion:

This study sought to examine the effects of recovery audits on transtibial prosthetic prescriptions on practitioner-assigned MFCL and MFCL via foot L-Codes from the pre- to post-audit implementation period. We hypothesized that there would be a decrease with both of these aspects, to which we accepted both of these hypotheses. We found that there was a 33% and 39% reduction in the amount of high-activity practitioner-assigned MFCL and MFCL via foot LCodes, respectively; these p-values were both found to be < 0.001 .