

CARDIOLOGY BILLING GUIDE

Echocardiograms, Stress Testing, and NCCI Bundling Rules

CARDIOLOGY BILLING COMPLEXITY

Cardiology billing involves highly technical codes and rigid National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) bundling rules designed to prevent the unbundling of multi-component procedures.

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY CODE BUNDLING

When billing a standard, complete transthoracic echocardiogram (**CPT 93306**), the code automatically bundles spectral Doppler, color flow Doppler, and real-time 2D imaging into one charge line. Trying to bill these component parts separately is an unbundling error and will lead to line-item rejections.

CARDIOVASCULAR STRESS TEST BREAKDOWNS

A global stress test code (**CPT 93015**) covers the entire procedure. If the components are performed across different settings, the service must be split into standalone pieces:

- **CPT 93016:** Cardiovascular stress test; physician supervision only, without interpretation or report.
- **CPT 93017:** Cardiovascular stress test; tracing only, without interpretation or report (Technical component).
- **CPT 93018:** Cardiovascular stress test; interpretation and report only (Professional component).