

Memorandum of Agreement with Respect to Coding Related Activities for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Introduction

1. GMG (Gynaecology Management Group RF-NPC) is a Not-for-Profit Company responsible for private practice matters on behalf of GMG and SASOG members.
2. The South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (SASOG) is a policy-making body for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in South Africa.
3. GMG collaborates with SASOG and all its affiliate groups in private practice matters.
4. *The GMG-SASOG coding companion* is compiled by GMG and changes to the companion will be made by GMG after peer review and due consideration.

Functions of GMG

1. GMG negotiates on behalf of its members with Medical Schemes, Administrators and Managed Health Care Organisations.
2. GMG reviews pricing and contracting strategies developed by funders and managed care organisations on behalf of GMG members in order that they reflect operational costs and represent value to the customer/purchaser of health services.
3. GMG maintains and updates procedure and equipment codes for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in South Africa.
4. GMG recommends changes to the current Medical Doctors' Coding Manual of South African Medical Association (MDCM), CCSA and NAPPI codes were requested by suppliers or similar coding systems on behalf of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of South Africa.
5. GMG represents its members in respect of queries received from funders and managed care organisations in respect of coding and tariff issues, the application of Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMBs) or other aspects falling within the ambit of the Medical Schemes Act, National Health Act, Health Professions Act and specific Circulars issued by the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS).
6. GMG assists members with problems experienced when submitting claims to funders and complaints to the CMS.
7. GMG assists members dealing with claim and coding audits, forensic investigation and utilization reviews of specific codes and coding combinations.

Principles and decisions regarding changes to be made to the SAMA Medical Doctor's Coding Manual

1. All submission for changes to be made to codes or deletion to codes in the Medical Doctor's Coding Manual must be submitted to GMG.
2. Any individual Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, professional society, funder, or other interested parties can submit a motivation for changes in the codes related to the practice of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
3. GMG must be informed regarding proposed changes to be made or deletion to codes. Documents containing proposed changes to be made or deletions, including motivations,

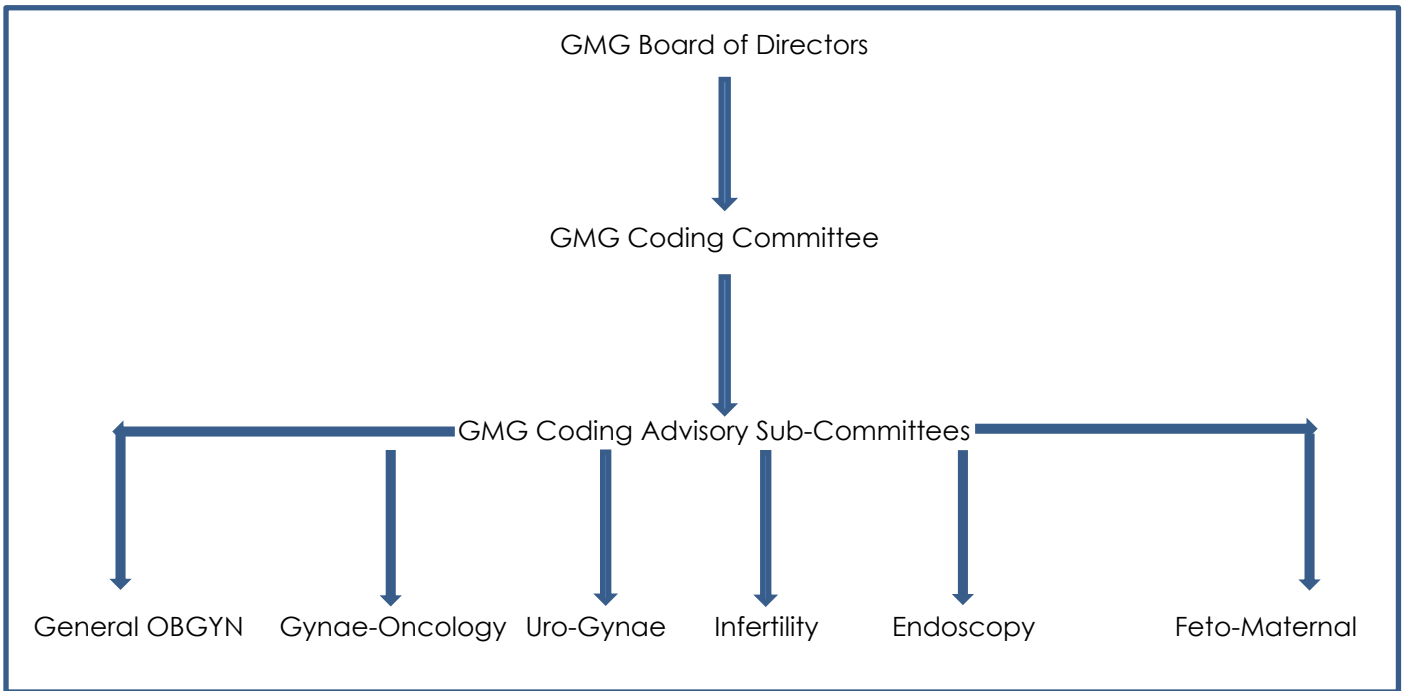
must be sent to GMG. A pro-forma example will be made available to members and parties requesting changes.

4. All proposed changes to be made or deletion to codes will be presented at formal GMG Board of Directors' meeting.
5. The Practitioner or Society motivating for changes or deletions can request to present proposals at a full GMG BoD meeting.
6. The Board of Directors will then refer the proposed changes to the coding committee of GMG for review of the proposals. Review will be done in consultation with the Practitioner or Society motivating for changes and industry experts will be consulted where deemed necessary.
7. For new codes without an available supporting CPT code and RVU (Relative Value Unit), HealthMan, where possible, will calculate an appropriate RVU in relation to operational cost on behalf of GMG. Utilization of codes and costs will be required.
8. SAMA guidelines, rules and processes are to be followed in changes to or deletion of codes.
9. Parties requesting changes must supply guidelines, interpretations and/or comment for the different codes used by the disciplines.
10. Any new proposals should be sent to SASOG and its affiliates or any other specialist society that may be affected by the proposed changes, for review with the purpose of officially endorsing the proposed changes.
11. The scope of practice of the different disciplines should be reflected for the purpose of the Medical Doctors' Coding Manual and not just those codes where medical schemes may consider granting benefits.
12. All submissions must be motivated in person at the SAMA Private Practice Committee meeting at a date to be determined by the Committee for submissions to be considered. GMG representatives will attend this meeting alongside parties proposing the changes. All groups that may be affected by the changes should be notified of the date of the meeting and be invited to attend with permission from SAMA Private Practice Committee.

Re-alignment of Organisational Structures and Processes to Current Procedural Terminology

1. The GMG coding committee will consist of members nominated by GMG Board of Directors and will include an ad-hoc representation from each of the subspecialist societies and a representative from the generalist advisory committee.
2. The GMG coding committee will ensure that descriptors, guidelines, and interpretation are in line with the latest medical care or practice.
3. GMG will allow medical speciality societies, individual physicians, FUNDERS and other interested parties to submit suggestions to be considered by the GMG coding committee for SAMA MDCM inclusion.
4. Coding Advisory committees in all 5 disciplines (general Obstetric and Gynaecology, endoscopy/infertility, urogynaecology, gynae-oncology and fetomaternal) are to give on-going advice to the GMG coding committee (in line with the CPT Advisory Committees that advises the CPT Editorial Panel on coding changes).
5. It is recommended that each subspecialty Coding Advisory committee has generalist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist representation.
6. General Obstetric and Gynaecology task team are to have representation from all SASOG regions.
7. The Coding Advisory Committees team will also act as the RVU Update committees (as in the American Medical Association RVU Update Committee) to analyse data on an ongoing basis and make recommendations to the GMG coding committee on RVU's in line with practitioner's income, practice expenses and malpractice risk.

8. Other functions of the Coding Advisory Committees may include providing ethical guidelines to give input to peer review processes, forensic audits and advising on outcomes measurement quality metrics in line with Value Based Care.



Dr Jean-Pierre du Buisson

Dr Jean-Pierre du Buisson
GMG: CEO



Prof Greta Dreyer

Prof Greta Dreyer
SASOG: President



DAUGHTER SOCIETIES:

Dr Trudy Smith

Dr Trudy Smith
SAMS: President



Dr Viju Thomas

Dr Viju Thomas
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Prof Greta Dreyer

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Dr Sulaiman Heylen

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