



# Case Study: EGREGIOUS CHARGING THROUGH MULTICODING

## CASE DETAILS

- Patient underwent resection of a colon cancer.
- Doctor submitted 10 codes for 2 operations in 1 claim : SF706I, SF808A (x2), SF703R SF800A (x2), SF701C, SF704I, SF803C and SF849A.



## PANEL DECISION

The Panel agreed with the medical indications for surgery, but ruled that TOSP coding was inappropriate: The inappropriate choice of codes and multicoding escalated the total bill. Complications arose from the first surgery, hence a second operation was done. A total of 10 codes were used over 2 operations when only 4 were merited.

- 1 Several TOSP codes were charged, when 1 code should be used. E.g., a hemicolectomy (SF803C) and colonic resection (SF701C) were charged though it was part of colonic resection (code splitting).
- 2 Removal of abdominal adhesions was not done as the primary procedure and SF800A should not have been claimed.
- 3 Exploratory laparotomy was not done as the primary procedure, and SF808A should not be claimed.
- 4 Small bowel resection (SF706I, Table 4C) was coded but was not recorded in the operative notes (potential fraud).
- 5 SF703R (Table 6C) was the inappropriate code for the surgery and SF806C (Table 5C) more accurately described the first surgery for colectomy.

Total charges from inappropriate items/codes:  
**>\$95,000**

### TOSP Codes Submitted by Doctor

**First Operation**  
SF703R (6C) Ultralow anterior resection with total mesorectal excision  
SF706I (4C) Extensive small bowel resection  
SF800A (4A) Adhesiolysis procedure  
SF808A (3A) Exploratory laparotomy

**Second Operation**  
SF701C (6C) Anterior resection procedure  
SF803C (5C) Right/Left hemicolectomy  
SF704I (4A) Small bowel enterostomy  
SF800A (4A) Adhesiolysis procedure  
SF849A (3B) Appendectomy  
SF808A (3A) Exploratory laparotomy

### TOSP Codes Approved by Panel

**First Operation**  
SF806C (5C) Colectomy

**Second Operation**  
SF701C (6C) Anterior resection procedure  
SF704I (4A) Small bowel enterostomy  
SF849A (3B) Appendectomy

## KEY LEARNING POINTS

- ✓ Only 1 TOSP code should be used if it adequately describes the procedure.
- ✓ Abdominal and pelvic adhesiolysis can only be claimed if done as primary procedure (not part of another procedure).
- ✓ Exploratory laparotomy can only be claimed if done as a primary procedure (not part of another procedure).