

Submitted via email by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

June 5, 2019

Christopher L. Jagmin, MD, FAAFP  
Chair  
*CPT*® Assistant Editorial Board  
via email: [JagminC@aetna.com](mailto:JagminC@aetna.com)

Dear Dr. Jagmin,

Our respective organizations, the American Neurotology Society (ANS) and the American Otological Society (AOS), represent the majority of otologists and neurotologists performing procedures to implant hearing devices in the United States.

We are writing you concerning issues we have with a recent CPT Assistant from January 2019 regarding coding advice for BAHA implantable hearing devices using 69714 and 69715 (please see attached). This article has created coding issues and confusion among our members reporting these procedures, rather than clarifying the coding process. We disagree that 69799 should we used to report procedures to implant an osseointegrated device into the temporal bone.

After surveying the membership of both societies, our members report that the current codes (69714 and 69715) are applicable to all BAHA devices currently on the market. The surgeons we surveyed felt that despite minor differences in the actual steps needed to insert the device, the times are nearly identical and the work is the same. We request that you review the January article and adjust the coding recommendation based on this information. To summarize, we feel that the existing codes and values are adequate to describe the work being done with all currently available BAHA products.

If there are questions, please contact us at [jcarey@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu](mailto:jcarey@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu) and [hirschbe@upmc.edu](mailto:hirschbe@upmc.edu).

Sincerely,

Barry E. Hirsch, MD  
President  
American Neurotology Society

John P. Carey, MD  
President  
American Otological Society