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American Academy of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.

DEDICATED TO CARE OF THE EARS, NOSE, THROAT, AND RELATED STRUCTURES OF THE HEAD AND NECK

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December 14, 1999

Dear Dr.

Thank you for contacting the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery regarding the bundling of septoplasty (CPT 30520) with other procedures, in this case, functional endoscopic sinus surgery (CPT 31231-31287 series).

The surgeries in questions, although carried out transnasally, involve separate anatomical sites, application of separate clinical judgement, surgical technique, and instrumentation. They are separately identifiable surgical procedures done at the same time, for the convenience of the patient and to improve the medical outcomes of the operation.

I share your concern regarding inappropriate bundling. The American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in association with the American Medical Association has filed formal objections with a number of carriers and software providers, including Claim Check, regarding this practice.

Sincerely,

Neil O. Ward, MD
Interim Executive Vice President
(703) 519-1559