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AMA Establishes New Code for Vertebral Fracture Assessment, an Important Feature of Hologic Dual Energy X-ray Bone Densitometer Systems

BEDFORD, Mass., (October 19, 2004) -- Hologic, Inc, a leader in osteoporosis assessment technology, today announced that the American Medical Association has established a new Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) code for DXA bone densitometers that provide imaging of the spine in assessing the presence of vertebral fractures. The new code is published in the 2005 edition of the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology.

“The International Society of Clinical Densitometry and other participating societies worked hard to have the AMA recognize vertebral fracture assessment as a valuable and needed tool in the fight against osteoporosis,” said Brad Herrington, Vice President of Osteoporosis Assessment for Hologic. “The establishment of the new code represents a major milestone in recognition of the clinical and economic value of combined bone density and vertebral fracture assessment testing. Vertebral fracture assessment has the potential to improve the diagnostic accuracy in identifying men and women who are eligible for treatment.”

Herrington noted that the U.S. Surgeon General, Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, has stressed the importance of assessing vertebral fractures in health exams. “Fractures due to bone disease are common, costly, and often become a chronic burden on individuals and society,” Dr. Carmona has written. The Surgeon General also points out that vertebral fractures are a major risk factor for future fractures and are linked with disability, morbidity, and signal the downward spiral of untreated osteoporosis.

“Vertebral fractures often occur silently” and “have warning signs that are too often dismissed by individuals and health professionals.”

"The International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) is very pleased that a CPT[®] code for Vertebral Fracture Assessment (VFA) has been established," commented Michael Lewiecki, MD, FACP, President of the ISCD. "Most patients with vertebral fractures are unaware of their presence, and they carry increased risk of future fractures and disability. VFA can help risk stratification, so that the best therapeutic options for individual patients can be selected."

“We continuously evolve our technology to provide the highest sensitivity to detect and quantify vertebral fractures,” said Jay Stein Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer for Hologic who pioneered the development of Instant Vertebral Assessment for Hologic. “Our latest development using computer aided detection will assist a wide range of medical specialties as they utilize VFA for patient care.”

Specific reimbursement levels and guidelines for the use of vertebral fracture assessment are in development.

About Hologic

Hologic Inc. is a leading developer, manufacturer and supplier of medical imaging systems dedicated to serving the healthcare needs of women, and a leading developer of state-of-the-art digital imaging technology for general radiography and mammography applications. Hologic's core business units are focused on osteoporosis assessment, mammography and breast biopsy, direct-to-digital X-ray for general radiography applications and mini C-arm imaging for orthopedic applications. For more information, please visit www.hologic.com.

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