Cost Benefit Analysis of Athletic Team Coverage by an Orthopaedic Practice

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INTRODUCTION

- Coverage of high school football by an orthopaedic practice is considered standard of care in many localities.
- Taking time away from an orthopaedic practice to provide on-field athletic care has potential advantages and disadvantages.
- To this date, the economic value of this endeavor has never been investigated.
- Purpose: to perform a cost/benefit analysis of local high school sports coverage by an orthopaedic sports medicine practice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- From January 2010 to June 2012, a prospective injury report database was established containing all sports injuries from five high school athletic programs covered by a single orthopaedic sports medicine practice.
- Patients referred for orthopaedic care were then tracked (Table 1) to determine potential revenue.

RESULTS

- Evaluation and management codes and current procedure terminology (CPT) codes were used to determine the standardized Medicare reimbursement rates of:
  - Office visits
  - Surgical treatment
- Calculations using both national average and regional Medicare reimbursement rates are shown.

- Direct Cost of coverage was estimated based on:
  - Physician time required for team coverage
  - Hourly reimbursement rates for orthopaedic surgeons
  - Previously reported data (Leigh at all).

DISCUSSION

- Using the team coverage cost from Table 3 as the overheard in our analysis, we determined:
  - The profit of the covering physician to be $13,598.33 (total revenue of covering physician [$26,226.14] – overhead [$12,627.81]).
  - The total potential orthopaedic profit to be $31,612.13 (total orthopaedic revenue [$44,239.94] – overhead [$12,627.81]).

REFERENCES