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Cardiac Rhythm Management and Electrophysiology Reimbursement Update

Last updated: November 2008

On October 30, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rates for the 2009 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) payments. Changes that affect Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) and Electrophysiology (EP) procedures are detailed below. The rule goes into effect January 1, 2009.

PFS Highlights

- Over 20 new CPT codes for cardiac device monitoring will replace existing codes.
- There is a new code for an implantable cardiovascular monitor that can be billed by physicians monitoring the cardiac health status of their patient. It is a separate payment from regular device checks.
- Payment rates for remote monitoring of ICDs and pacemakers are different than in-person device checks.
- While individual payment rates may vary, CMS final payment rates for CY2009 include the 1.1% increase approved by Congress this past summer.

Base Payment Changes for CRM Services for 2009

The table below shows a sample of the final 2009 CPT code payment rates for CRM procedures compared to 2008 rates and the base reimbursement rate.

CPT	Procedure	CY09 vs. CY08	Base Reimbursement*
33208	Insertion or replacement of permanent pacemaker with transvenous electrode(s); atrial and ventricular	3.8%	\$532
33214	Upgrade of implanted pacemaker system, conversion of single-chamber system to dual chamber system (includes removal of previously placed pulse generator, testing of existing lead, insertion of new lead, insertion of new pulse generator)	2.2%	\$489

*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

CPT	Procedure	CY09 vs. CY08	Base Reimbursement*
33224	Insertion of pacing electrode, cardiac venous system, for left ventricular pacing, with attachment to previously placed pacemaker or pacing cardioverter-defibrillator pulse generator (including revision of pocket, removal, insertion, and/or replacement of generator)	4.6%	\$516
33225	Insertion of pacing electrode, cardiac venous system, for left ventricular pacing, at time of insertion of pacing cardioverter-defibrillator or pacemaker pulse generator (including upgrade to dual chamber system) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.3%	\$465
33226	Repositioning of previously implanted cardiac venous system (left ventricular) electrode (including removal, insertion, and/or replacement of generator)	4.8%	\$500
33240	Insertion of single- or dual-chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator pulse generator	3.2%	\$472
33249	Insertion or repositioning of electrode lead(s) for single- or dual-chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator and insertion of pulse generator	3.7%	\$919
71090-26	Insertion of pacemaker, fluoroscopy and radiography, radiological supervision and interpretation	4.9%	\$30
93641-26	Electrophysiologic evaluation of single- or dual-chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator leads including defibrillation threshold evaluation (induction of arrhythmia, evaluation of sensing and pacing for arrhythmia termination) at time of initial implantation or replacement; with testing of single- or dual-chamber pacing cardioverter defibrillator pulse generator	5.3%	\$334

*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

Base Payment Changes for EP Procedures for 2009

The table below shows a sample of the final 2009 CPT code payment rates for EP procedures compared to 2008 rates and the base reimbursement rate.

CPT	Procedure	CY09 vs. CY08	Base Reimbursement*
92960	Cardioversion, elective, electrical conversion of arrhythmia; external	5%	\$134
92961	Cardioversion, elective, electrical conversion of arrhythmia; internal	4.5%	\$262
93600-26	Bundle of His Recording	5%	\$119
93602-26	Intra-Atrial Recording	5%	\$119
93603-26	Right-Ventricular Recording	6%	\$119
93609-26	Intraventricular and/or intra-atrial mapping of tachycardia site(s) with catheter manipulation to record from multiple sites to identify origin of tachycardia (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.2%	\$281

*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 4.

CPT	Procedure	CY09 vs. CY08	Base Reimbursement*
93610-26	Intra-Atrial Pacing	6%	\$169
93612-26	Intra-Ventricular Pacing	5%	\$168
93613	Intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping (List separately)	5.2%	\$395
93615-26	Esophageal recording of atrial electrogram with or without ventricular electrogram(s)	8%	\$54
93616-26	; with pacing	4%	\$70
93618-26	Induction of arrhythmia by electrical pacing	6%	\$242
93619-26	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording, including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, without induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia	4.6%	\$417
93620-26	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia; with right atrial pacing and recording, right ventricular pacing and recording, His bundle recording	4.7%	\$656
93621-26	;with left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.3%	\$119
93622-26	;with left ventricular pacing and recording (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.0%	\$173
93623-26	Programmed stimulation and pacing after intravenous drug infusion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.3%	\$161
93624-26	Programmed stimulation and pacing after intravenous drug infusion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	3%	\$274
93650	Intracardiac catheter ablation of atrioventricular node function, atrioventricular conduction for creation of complete heart block, with or without temporary pacemaker placement	4.8%	\$602
93651	Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of supraventricular tachycardia by ablation of fast or slow atrioventricular pathways, accessory atrioventricular connections or other atrial foci, singly or in combination	5.3%	\$916
93652	Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of ventricular tachycardia	5.2%	\$997

*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

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CPT	Procedure	CY09 vs. CY08	Base Reimbursement*
93660-26	Evaluation of cardiovascular function with tilt table evaluation, with continuous ECG monitoring and intermittent blood monitoring, with or without pharmacological intervention	6%	\$104
93662-26	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.0%	\$154

*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

Additional Information

[Read Medicare's overview on the revised PFS](#)

[Read the full 2009 PFS Final Rule](#)

For questions related to the reimbursement of CRM products, call 1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422) and ask for the reimbursement customer support center.

¹Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Claims Processing. November 2008 Update of the 2009 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) payments: Medicare Program; Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2009; E-Prescribing Exemption for Computer-Generated Facsimile Transmissions; and Payment for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). November 19, 2008. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/PFSFRN/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=0&sortByDID=4&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1216674&intNumPerPage=10>. Accessed November 2008.

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