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Cardiac Rhythm Management and Electrophysiology Reimbursement Update

Updated October 2009

On October 30, 2009, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rates for the 2010 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) payments. Changes that affect Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) and Electrophysiology (EP) procedures are detailed below. The payment changes go into effect January 1, 2010.

Physician Fee Schedule Highlights

- Analysis of the final rule revealed that CRM procedure payments **decreased** on average from 3 to 6%. EP procedure payments **decreased** on average from 9% to 12%.
- In addition to these changes, Medicare is required by law to reduce physician payments by an additional 21.2%. This reduction is based on a specific formula that results in payment reductions to offset spending that exceeds preset limits. Congress has intervened each year since 2002 and reversed these cuts. It is anticipated they will do the same this year.
- Finally, CMS changed the way it calculates physician practice expenses and will phase in the new method over four years. It also removed specialty consult fees and will require specialists to use regular office visit fees. These policies will result in a shift in dollars to primary care at the expense of specialists as part of the broader reform to incentivize primary care in the US.

Note: Rates subject to change and do NOT reflect the 21.2% Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) reduction. Calculations based on 2009 Conversion Factor (CF) \$36.0666.

Base Payment Changes for Physician CRM and EP Services for 2010

The table below shows a sample of the 2010 CPT rates for CRM and EP procedures compared to 2009.

CPT	Procedure	CY 2010 vs CY 2009	CY 2010 Final Base Reimbursement Rates*
Pacemaker			
33208	Insertion or replacement of permanent pacemaker with transvenous electrode(s); atrial and ventricular	-4%	\$511
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)	-4%	\$468
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)	-3%	\$498
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)	-4%	\$448
33226	Repositioning of previously implanted cardiac venous system (left ventricular) electrode (including removal, insertion, and/or replacement of generator)	-4%	\$479
33249	Insertion or repositioning of electrode lead(s) for single- or dual-chamber pacing cardioverter defibrillator and insertion of pulse generator	-6%	\$878
33240	Insertion of single- or dual-chamber pacing cardioverter-defibrillator pulse generator	-4%	\$446
71090-26	Insertion of pacemaker, fluoroscopy and radiography, radiological supervision and interpretation	-9%	\$27

*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

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

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CPT	Procedure	CY 2010 vs CY 2009	CY 2010 Final Base Reimbursement Rates*
Electrophysiology			
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)	-11%	\$249
93613	Intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping (List separately)	-12%	\$349
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	-13%	\$364
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	-12%	\$578
93621-26	;with left atrial pacing and recording from coronary sinus or left atrium (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	-12%	\$105
93622-26	;with left ventricular pacing and recording (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	-11%	\$155
93623-26	Programmed stimulation and pacing after intravenous drug infusion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	-11%	\$142
93650	Intracardiac catheter ablation of atrioventricular node function, atrioventricular conduction for creation of complete heart block, with or without temporary pacemaker placement	-12%	\$532
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	-12%	\$810
93652	Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of ventricular tachycardia	-12%	\$882
93662-26	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/ diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	-9%	\$140

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

Additional Information

[Medicare's press release](#)

[2010 PFS final rule](#)

For questions related to the reimbursement of CRM and EP products, call 1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422) and ask for the Reimbursement Customer Support Line.

Sources

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CMS Announces Payment, Policy Changes for Physician Services to Medicare Beneficiaries in 2010. October 30, 2009. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3539&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&srchOpt=0&srchData=&keywordType=All&chkNewsType=1%2C+2%2C+3%2C+4%2C+5&intPage=&showAll=&pYear=&year=&desc=&cboOrder=date>. Accessed October 30, 2009.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2010. October 30, 2009. Available at: http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-26503_PI.pdf. Accessed October 30, 2009.

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