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### Electrophysiology Reimbursement Update

**Updated: April 2009**

### Medicare Hospital Inpatient<sup>1</sup>

On July 31, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final update to the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). Changes affecting ablation therapy are detailed below. Final payment rates for most cardiac ablation cases will decrease by a weighted average of 0.5%.

2009 National Inpatient Payment Rates			
MS-DRG	Procedure	2009* vs. 2008	2009 National Average MS-DRG Payment**
250	Percutaneous cardiovascular procedures without coronary artery stent with Major Complications/Comorbidities	23%	\$20,405
251	Percutaneous cardiovascular procedures without coronary artery stent without Major Complications/Comorbidities	-6%	\$10,753

\* The percent changes shown are national averages and will vary for individual hospitals.

\*\* Hospital-specific final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences or be higher due to teaching institution status and disproportionate share of care status.

See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 6.

## 2009 Inpatient ICD-9 Procedure Codes

<p><b>37.26 Catheter based invasive electrophysiologic testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrophysiologic studies [EPS]</li> <li>• Code also any concomitant procedure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Excludes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Device interrogation only without arrhythmia induction (bedside check) (89.45–89.49)</li> <li>• His bundle recording (37.29)</li> <li>• Non-invasive programmed electrical stimulation (NIPS) (37.20)</li> <li>• That as part of intraoperative testing – omit code</li> </ul>
<p><b>37.27 Cardiac mapping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code also any concomitant procedure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Excludes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrocardiogram (89.52)</li> <li>• His bundle recording (37.29)</li> </ul>
<p><b>37.28 Intracardiac echocardiography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Echocardiography of heart chambers</li> <li>• ICE</li> <li>• Code also any synchronous Doppler flow mapping (88.72)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Excludes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intravascular imaging of coronary vessels (intravascular ultrasound) (IVUS) (00.24)</li> </ul>
<p><b>37.34 Excision or destruction of other lesion or tissue of heart, other approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ablation of heart tissue (cryoablation) (electrocurrent) (laser) (microwave) (radiofrequency) (resection), via peripherally inserted catheter</li> <li>• Modified maze procedure, endovascular approach</li> </ul>	
<p><b>99.6 Conversion of cardiac rhythm</b></p>	<p><b>Excludes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open chest cardiac: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Electric stimulation (37.91)</li> <li>– Massage (37.91)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>99.62 Other electric countershock of heart</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardioversion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NOS</li> <li>– external</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Conversion to sinus rhythm</li> <li>• Defibrillation</li> <li>• External electrode stimulation</li> </ul>	

*See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 6.*

## Medicare Hospital Outpatient<sup>2</sup>

On October 30, 2008, CMS released the final rates for the 2009 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) payments. Payment rates for most EP procedures increased by 8% to 12%. The composite APC payment for EP evaluations and ablations increased by 10%.

2009 National Outpatient Payment Rates			
APC	Procedure	2009* vs. 2008	2009 National Average APC Payment**
8000†	Cardiac Electrophysiologic Evaluation and Ablation Composite (combined ablation and comprehensive EP study)	+10%	\$9,467
0084	Level I EP Procedures (EP study components)	+11%	\$686
0085	Level II EP Procedures (comprehensive EP study OR AV node ablation only)	+8%	\$3,281
0086	Level III EP Procedures (SVT or VT ablation only)	+12%	\$6,649

\* The percent changes shown are national averages and will vary for individual hospitals.

\*\* Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

† Composite APC for EP Evaluation and Ablation performed on the same day. APCs 84-86 will apply when services rendered do not qualify for APC 8000 (e.g., evaluation and ablation performed on different dates).

### APC 8000 Procedure Description

APC 8000 will be assigned when claims reflect that operative sessions included at least one of the ablation services below:

- **CPT Code<sup>3</sup> 93650 – AV Node Ablation:** Intracardiac catheter ablation of atrioventricular node function, atrioventricular conduction for creation of complete heart block, with or without temporary pacemaker placement
- **CPT Code 93651 – SVT Ablation:** 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
- **CPT Code 93652 – VT Ablation:** Intracardiac catheter ablation of arrhythmogenic focus; for treatment of ventricular tachycardia

**AND** one of the two comprehensive, diagnostic EP procedures:

- **CPT Code 93619 – EP Study without Induction:** 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
- **CPT Code 93620 – EP Study with Induction:** 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

For either “Electrophysiology Evaluation” 93619 or 93620, all sub-components listed below must be performed, in addition to an ablation procedure, to qualify for the composite APC 8000.

### Diagnostic EP Procedures

If fewer than the five sub-components of the comprehensive EP study without induction (Electrophysiology Evaluation [93619]) or six sub-components of the comprehensive EP study with induction (Electrophysiology Evaluation [93620]) are performed, claims submitted should indicate only those procedures.

**Comprehensive EP study with induction (Electrophysiology Evaluation [93620])** includes six sub-component procedures each with their own CPT code:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>93600</b> – Bundle of His recording     | <b>93610</b> – Intra-atrial pacing                                       |
| <b>93602</b> – Intra-atrial recording      | <b>93612</b> – Intraventricular pacing                                   |
| <b>93603</b> – Right ventricular recording | <b>93618</b> – Heart rhythm pacing (see below for procedure description) |

**Comprehensive EP study without induction (Electrophysiology Evaluation [93619])** includes all services of 93620 except the paced induction of arrhythmia (heart rhythm pacing [93618]).

*See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 6.*

## 2009 Outpatient EP Procedure Details

APC	CPT <sup>®3</sup> Codes	Status Indicator*	Procedure	Procedure Description (where applicable)	2009 National Average APC Payment**
0084		S	Level I EP Procedures		\$686
0084	93600		Bundle of His recording		\$686
0084	93602		Intra-atrial recording		\$686
0084	93603		Right ventricular recording		\$686
0084	93610		Intra-atrial pacing		\$686
0084	93612		Intraventricular pacing		\$686
0084	93615		Esophageal recording	Esophageal recording of atrial electrogram and/or ventricular electrogram	\$686
0084	93616		Esophageal recording	;with pacing	\$686
0084	93618		Heart rhythm pacing	Paced induction of arrhythmia	\$686
0084	93642		EP evaluation	NIPS	\$686
0085		T	Level II EP Procedures		\$3,281
0085	93619		Electrophysiology evaluation	Comprehensive EP Study without induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia	\$3,281
0085	93620		Electrophysiology evaluation	Comprehensive EP Study with induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia	\$3,281
0085	93624		Electrophysiology study	EP follow up study to check effectiveness of therapy	\$3,281
0085	93650		Ablate heart dysrhythm focus	AV Node Ablation	\$3,281
0086		T	Level III EP Procedures		\$6,649
0086	93651		Ablate heart dysrhythm focus	SVT Ablation	\$6,649
0086	93652		Ablate heart dysrhythm focus	VT Ablation	\$6,649

\* Status Indicator key: S= Significant procedure, not discounted when multiple T= Significant procedure, multiple reduction applies

\*\* Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

*See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 6.*

## Medicare Physician Payment<sup>4</sup>

On October 30, 2008, CMS released the final rates for the 2009 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) payments. While individual payment rates may vary, CMS final payment rates for CY2009 include the 1.1% increase approved by Congress earlier in 2008.

Base Payment Changes for EP Procedures for 2009			
CPT	Procedure	2009 vs. 2008	2009 National Average Payment*
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
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%	\$174
93623-26	Programmed stimulation and pacing after intravenous drug infusion (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5.3%	\$161
93624-26	Electrophysiologic follow-up study with pacing and recording to test effectiveness of therapy, including induction or attempted induction of arrhythmia	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.

See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 6.

## Base Payment Changes for EP Procedures for 2009 *(continued)*

CPT	Procedure	2009 vs. 2008	2009 National Average Payment*
93660	Evaluation of cardiovascular function with tilt table evaluation, with continuous ECG monitoring and intermittent blood monitoring, with or without pharmacological intervention	6%	\$104
93662	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/ diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	5%	\$154

\*Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

### Additional Information

For more complete coding information, reference the *2009 GuidePoint Cardiac Rhythm Management and Electrophysiology Billing and Coding Guide*. To obtain this guide, contact 1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422), ask for Customer Service, and request item C5-442-0109.

For more information on reimbursement, visit our website, [www.bostonscientific.com/crm/reimbursement](http://www.bostonscientific.com/crm/reimbursement) or contact the Boston Scientific Reimbursement Customer Support Line at 1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422).

### Sources

- <sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Program; Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2008 Rates; Correction. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/downloads/CMS-1533-CN3.pdf>. Accessed August 2008.
- <sup>2</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Outpatient Final rule. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalOutpatientPPS/hord/itemdetail.asp?filtertype+none&filterbydid=99&sortbydid=3&sortorder=descending&itemid=cms1216689&intnumperpage=10>. Accessed November 2008.
- <sup>3</sup> American Medical Association. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2009. Professional Edition. Chicago, IL: 2008.
- <sup>4</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Physician Fee Schedule rule. 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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