

IO Ablation Customers:

This alert addresses CPT® coding and Medicare's final payment rates for procedures using Boston Scientific's IO Ablation products, other ablation modalities, and related procedures furnished under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Payment System, on January 1, 2021. Medicare's PFS and ASC payment rates, payment policies, and other provisions are relevant to Medicare beneficiaries treated in the ASC setting.

CY2021 Reimbursement: Ambulatory Surgical Center (POS 24)

On December 2, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2021 final policies and payment rates for the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System. The ASC rule contains policy and payment information for Medicare beneficiary services furnished in the ambulatory surgical center (place of service 24) setting.

The facility rates represent the Medicare national average payment rate for items and services delivered by the ASC. These rates will be adjusted by the CBSA (Core-Based Statistical Area) Wage Index (WI) value assigned to the CBSA. Payment rates will vary for non-Medicare payers, including Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans, for both physician and ASC facility services, though their payment rates may be based on Medicare payment rates.

CPT codes, RVUs, and Medicare payment rates do not guarantee any payer will cover or reimburse procedures. Medicare coverage is limited to items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury (and within the scope of a Medicare benefit category). National coverage determinations (NCDs) are made through an evidence-based process. In the absence of a national coverage policy, an item or service may be covered at the discretion of the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) based on a local coverage determination (LCD).

Policies and payment rates will be made effective January 1, 2021.

Final Changes to ASC (POS 24) Reimbursement

The average increase to payment rates for CY 2021 is 2.4%. Notable changes for the ASC setting are based on the procedures now identified as device intensive:

- Breast fibroadenoma cryoablation payment is increasing by 53.0% to \$1,711.04.
- Lung tumor cryoablation payment is increasing by 54.0% to \$3,378.10.

Other notable changes for IO Ablation procedures performed in the ASC setting are:

- Renal mass cryoablation payment is increasing by 15.7% to \$5,686.47.
- Liver tumor cryoablation payment is increasing by 11.1% to \$3,447.04.
- Truncal nerve plexus cryoablation payment is increasing by 28.1% to \$4,115.51.

ASC claims must contain the appropriate HCPCS/CPT code(s) to indicate the items and services that are furnished. The table below contains a list of possible HCPCS/CPT codes that may be used to bill for Boston Scientific's IO Ablation products, other ablation modalities and other related procedures. Providers should select the most appropriate code(s) and modifier(s) with the highest level of detail to describe the service(s) actually rendered.

Final 2021 ASC (POS 24) Reimbursement

Renal

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Ablation, renal tumor(s), uni, perc, cryo	50593	\$4,917	\$5,686	\$770	15.7%
Ablation, 1 or > renal tumor(s), uni, perc, RF	50592	\$2,194	\$2,318	\$124	5.6%
Renal biopsy, perc, trocar or needle	50200	\$576	\$597	\$21	3.6%

Lung

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Ablation, pulm tumor(s), perc, cryo, uni, incl RS&I	32994	\$2,194	\$3,378	\$1,184	54.0%
Ablation, pulm tumor(s), perc, RF, uni, incl RS&I	32998	\$2,194	\$2,318	\$124	5.6%
Core needle biopsy, lung or mediastinum	32408	\$576	\$597	\$21	3.6%

Nerve

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Ablation, perc, cryo, incl RS&I, upp ext, distal/periph	0440T	\$797	\$809	\$12	1.5%
Ablation, perc, cryo, incl RS&I, low ext, distal/periph	0441T	\$797	\$809	\$12	1.5%
Ablation, perc, cryo, incl RS&I, nerve plexus or truncal	0442T	\$3,212	\$4,116	\$904	28.1%
Dest, neurolytic agent, trigeminal, supraorbital, etc.	64600	\$410	\$418	\$7	1.8%
Dest, neur agent, trigeminal, 2 nd , 3 rd br for ova rad mo	64610	\$797	\$809	\$12	1.5%
Dest, neurolytic agent, intercostal nerve	64620	\$410	\$416	\$5	1.3%
Dest, neurolytic agent, genicular nerve branches	64624	\$319	\$809	\$490	153.8%
RFA, sacroiliac joint nerves, fluoro or CT guidance	64625	\$797	\$809	\$12	1.5%
Dest, neurolytic agent, pudendal nerve	64630	\$410	\$418	\$7	1.8%
Dest, neurolytic agent, oth peripheral nerve/branch	64640	\$176	\$180	\$4	2.1%
Dest, neurolytic agent, celiac plexus	64680	\$410	\$418	\$7	1.8%

Liver

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Ablation, 1 or > liver tumor(s), perc, cryo	47383	\$3,103	\$3,447	\$345	11.1%
Ablation, 1 or > liver tumor(s), perc, RF	47382	\$2,194	\$2,318	\$124	5.6%
Biopsy, liver, needle, perc	47000	\$576	\$597	\$21	3.6%

Prostate

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Cryo, prostate, incl US	55873	\$6,195	\$6,321	\$126	2.0%
Transurethral dest prostate, MW thermotherapy	53850	\$1,377	\$1,380	\$3	0.2%
Transurethral dest prostate, RF thermotherapy	53852	\$1,314	\$1,315	\$1	0.1%
Biopsy, prostate, needle, punch, 1 or >, any approach	55700	\$790	\$801	\$11	1.4%

Breast

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change
Ablation, cryo, breast fibroadenoma, ea, incl US	19105	\$1,118	\$1,711	\$593	53.0%

Physician claims must contain the appropriate HCPCS/CPT code(s) to indicate the items and services that are furnished. The table below contains a list of possible HCPCS/CPT codes that may be used to bill for Boston Scientific's IO Ablation products, other ablation modalities and other related procedures. Providers should select the most appropriate code(s) and modifier(s) with the highest level of detail to describe the service(s) actually rendered.

Final 2021 Physician Reimbursement: ASC (POS 24)

Renal

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
Ablation, renal tumor(s), uni, perc, cryo	50593	\$480	\$462	-\$19	-3.9%	13.31	13.23	-0.3%
Lap, surg, ablation renal mass lesions, incl US	50542	\$1,215	\$1,187	-\$28	-2.3%	33.66	34.01	1.0%
Ablation, open, 1 or > renal mass lesions, cryo, US	50250	\$1,268	\$1,236	-\$32	-2.5%	35.14	35.43	0.8%
Ablation, 1 or > renal tumor(s), uni, perc, RF	50592	\$358	\$346	-\$12	-3.3%	9.92	9.92	0.0%
Renal biopsy, perc, trocar or needle	50200	\$134	\$129	-\$5	-3.6%	3.70	3.69	-0.1%

Lung

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
Ablation, pulm tumor(s), perc, cryo, uni, incl RS&I	32994	\$462	\$443	-\$19	-4.2%	12.80	12.69	-0.9%
Ablation, pulm tumor(s), perc, RF, uni, incl RS&I	32998	\$461	\$442	-\$19	-4.1%	12.77	12.67	-0.8%
Core needle biopsy, lung or mediastinum	32408	\$93	\$155	\$61	65.8%	2.59	4.44	71.4%

Nerve

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
Dest, neurolytic agent, trigeminal, supraorbital, +	64600	\$238	\$233	-\$5	-2.0%	6.59	6.68	1.4%
Dest, neur agent, trigem, 2 nd , 3 rd br for ova rad mo	64610	\$505	\$497	-\$8	-1.6%	13.99	14.24	1.8%
Dest, neurolytic agent, intercostal nerve	64620	\$182	\$180	-\$1	-0.8%	5.03	5.16	2.6%
Dest, neurolytic agent, genicular nerve branches	64624	\$153	\$150	-\$3	-1.9%	4.23	4.29	1.4%
RFA, sacroiliac joint nerves, fluoro or CT guidance	64625	\$202	\$197	-\$5	-2.3%	5.59	5.65	1.1%
Dest, neurolytic agent, pudendal nerve	64630	\$196	\$196	-\$1	-0.3%	5.44	5.61	3.1%
Dest, neurolytic agent, oth periph nerve/branch	64640	\$122	\$121	-\$1	-1.0%	3.38	3.46	2.4%
Dest, neurolytic agent, celiac plexus	64680	\$168	\$164	-\$4	-2.3%	4.66	4.71	1.1%
Dest, neurolytic agent, superior hypogastric plexus	64681	\$271	\$230	-\$41	-15.2%	7.50	6.58	-12.3%

Liver

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
Ablation, 1 or > liver tumor(s), perc, cryo	47383	\$476	\$450	-\$26	-5.5%	13.18	12.91	-2.1%
Lap, surg, ablation, 1 or > liver tumor(s), RF	47370	\$1,314	\$1,290	-\$24	-1.8%	36.41	36.97	1.5%
Lap, surg, ablation, 1 or > liver tumor(s), cryo	47371	\$1,323	\$1,300	-\$23	-1.7%	36.67	37.25	1.6%
Ablation, open, 1 or > liver tumor(s), RF	47380	\$1,520	\$1,488	-\$32	-2.1%	42.11	42.65	1.3%
Ablation, open, 1 or > liver tumor(s), cryo	47381	\$1,559	\$1,530	-\$29	-1.9%	43.21	43.85	1.5%
Ablation, 1 or > liver tumor(s), perc, RF	47382	\$775	\$744	-\$31	-4.0%	21.48	21.32	-0.7%
Biopsy, liver, needle, perc	47000	\$92	\$89	-\$3	-3.3%	2.56	2.56	0.0%

Final 2021 Physician Reimbursement: ASC (POS 24) (Continued)

Prostate

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
Cryo, prostate, incl US	55873	\$796	\$777	-\$19	-2.4%	22.06	22.28	1.0%
Transurethral dest prostate, MW thermotherapy	53850	\$365	\$360	-\$5	-1.3%	10.10	10.31	2.1%
Transurethral dest prostate, RF thermotherapy	53852	\$390	\$385	-\$5	-1.4%	10.82	11.04	2.0%
Biopsy, prostate, needle, punch, 1 or >, any appr	55700	\$136	\$132	-\$4	-3.1%	3.77	3.78	0.3%

Breast

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
Ablation, cryo, breast fibroadenoma, ea, incl US	19105	\$222	\$217	-\$5	-2.1%	6.14	6.22	1.3%

Ablation Guidance & Monitoring

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
US guidance, monitor parenchymal tissue ablation	76940	\$106	\$103	-\$3	-3.0%	2.93	2.94	0.3%
CT guidance, monitor parenchymal tissue ablation	77013	\$196	\$187	-\$8	-4.2%	5.42	5.37	-0.9%
MR guidance, monitor parenchymal tissue ablation	77022	\$221	\$211	-\$9	-4.3%	6.12	6.06	-1.0%

Biopsy Guidance

Abbreviated Descriptor	CPT® Code	2020	FR 2021	\$ Change	% Change	2020 RVU	FR 2021 RVU	% Change
US guidance, needle placement, RS&I	76942	\$32	\$31	-\$1	-3.3%	0.90	0.90	0.0%
CT guidance, needle placement, RS&I	77012	\$76	\$73	-\$3	-4.2%	2.10	2.08	-1.0%
MR guidance, needle placement, RS&I	77021	\$75	\$72	-\$3	-4.3%	2.07	2.05	-1.0%

CY2020 Reimbursement: Physician Professional Fees (POS 24)

Final Changes to Physician Reimbursement

Congress passed H.R. 133, a compromise bill to fund the government, provide relief for the COVID-19 pandemic and within it \$73 billion was allocated to HHS. As a result, Medicare revised the PFS on December 29, 2020. Changes were made to the Relative Value Units (RVU) as well as the Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCI) that determines the locality-specific payment rates. Also included was a 3-month reprieve of the 2% Medicare sequester cuts.

CMS is decreasing reimbursement overall by 3.3% through a reduction in the Conversion Factor (CF) to \$34.8931 from the current rate of \$36.0896. Individual procedures will vary based on RVU changes. A table with a more comprehensive summary of the changes is included at the end of this communication.

Physician reimbursement rates for procedures in an ASC setting were generally not positively impacted by PE RVU updates. The decrease will range from 2-4% for most IO Ablation related procedures.

Please contact your IO Ablation sales representative who will connect you with one of our Regional Field Reimbursement Managers to address any questions.

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¹ [CMS-1734-F Physician Fee Schedule CY 2021 Final Rule Link](#)

² [CMS-1736-FC Hospital ASC CY 2021 Final Rule Link](#)



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