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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 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) payments. Changes that affect Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) and Electrophysiology (EP) procedures are detailed below. The payment rates go into effect January 1, 2010.

### OPPS and ASC Highlights

The 2010 payment rates are positive news for CRM and EP procedures especially in light of broader healthcare reform pressures. Rates were either stable or increased from 2009 payment amounts.

Highlights are as follows:

- Outpatient and ASC CRT-D payments will **increase** about 6% from last year.
- Outpatient and ASC therapy CRT-D upgrades from an ICD to a CRT-D (with diagnostic cardiac catheterization) will **increase** about 13%.
- Outpatient and ASC ICD payments will remain **flat** from last year.
- Outpatient and ASC pacemaker payments will remain **flat** from last year.
- Outpatient EP evaluation and cardiac ablation payments will **increase** 6 to 9% from last year.

Typically, ASC payments for CRM services are ~85%–95% of outpatient payments.

## Base Payment Changes for CRM Services for 2010

The table below shows the 2010 APC rates for CRM procedures compared to 2009.

APC	Descriptor <sup>^</sup>	CY* 2010 vs CY 2009 Change	CY 2010 Base Reimbursement Rate**
<b>CRM</b>			
089	Pacemaker – Single chamber system	3%	\$8,013
090	Pacemaker – Single chamber PG only	4%	\$6,616
0655	Pacemaker – Dual chamber system	1%	\$9,583
0654	Pacemaker – Dual chamber PG only	1%	\$7,291
0108	ICD system implant	-2%	\$27,796
0107	ICD PG only	4%	\$21,963
0418+0108†	CRT-D system implant	6%	\$34,676
0418	LV lead only	50%	\$13,759

\*The percent changes shown are base payments and will vary for individual hospitals.

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

<sup>^</sup>CPT 2009 short descriptor

†50% discount applied to 0418 due to “T” status: “Significant Procedure, Multiple Reduction Applies.”  
See addendum D1 in OPPS regulation and notices.

## Base Payment Changes for EP Services for 2010

The table below shows the final 2010 APC rates for EP procedures compared to 2009.

APC	Descriptor <sup>^</sup>	CY* 2010 vs CY 2009 Change	CY 2010 Base Reimbursement Rate**
<b>EP</b>			
8000	Cardiac Electrophysiologic Eval and Ablation Composite (Combined ablation and comprehensive EP study)	7%	\$10,118
0084	Level I EP Procedures (EP study components)	6%	\$729
0085	Level II EP Procedures (Comprehensive EP Study OR AV node ablation only)	8%	\$3,531
0086	Level III EP Procedures (SVT OR VT ablation only)	9%	\$7,212

\*The percent changes shown are base payments and will vary for individual hospitals.

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

<sup>^</sup>CPT 2009 short descriptor

*See important notes on the uses and limitations of this information on page 3.*

## Additional Information

[Medicare's press release](#)  
[2010 OPPS and ASC 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 Adopts Policy, Payment Rate Changes for Services in Hospital Outpatient Departments and Ambulatory Surgical Centers for 2010. October 30, 2009. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3540&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&srchOpt=0&srchData=&keywordType=All&chkNewsType=1,+2,+3,+4,+5&intPage=&showAll=&pYear=&year=&desc=&cboOrder=date>. Accessed October 30, 2009.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Program: Changes to the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and CY 2010 Payment Rates; Changes to the Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System and CY 2010 Payment Rates. October 30, 2009. Available at: [http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-26499\\_PI.pdf](http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-26499_PI.pdf). Accessed October 30, 2009.

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