

# CMS Issues Final Outpatient and ASC Rule

**GuidePoint**

Simplifying Reimbursement

**Cardiac Rhythm Management  
and Electrophysiology**

## Updated March 2010

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.

### 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*                        | CY 2010 vs<br>CY 2009<br>Change <sup>†</sup> | CY 2010 Base<br>Reimbursement<br>Rate <sup>‡</sup> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <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 <sup>§</sup> | CRT-D system implant               | 6%   | \$34,676   |
| 0418                   | LV lead only                       | 50%  | \$13,759   |

\*CPT® 2009 short descriptor

<sup>†</sup>The percent changes shown are base payments and will vary for individual hospitals.

<sup>‡</sup>Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

<sup>§</sup>50% discount applied to 0418 due to "T" status: "Significant Procedure, Multiple Reduction Applies." See addendum D1 in OPSS 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*   | CY 2010 vs<br>CY 2009<br>Change <sup>†</sup> | CY 2010 Base<br>Reimbursement<br>Rate <sup>‡</sup> |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| <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  |

\*CPT® 2009 short descriptor

<sup>†</sup>The percent changes shown are base payments and will vary for individual hospitals.

<sup>‡</sup>Final rates may vary due to geographic wage differences.

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## Additional Information

Read Medicare's press release

Read the 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

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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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