

The Essential RBRVS

A comprehensive listing of RBRVS values
for CPT[®] and HCPCS codes

2020



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Introduction

Development

The Essential RBRVS incorporates the relative values produced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) into a comprehensive reference of resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) relative values.

Even though RBRVS was developed specifically for assigning reimbursement rates to Medicare services, over 75 percent of non-Medicare payers use Medicare RBRVS to establish fees or maximum allowables for physician services. This works well for those services assigned relative values by CMS for Medicare. However, because Medicare does not assign a value to all services, the MPFS has gaps. In order to create a complete RBRVS-based fee schedule, these gap services need to have relative values assigned.

The Essential RBRVS Gap Methodology

The gaps in *The Essential RBRVS* are created when the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) does not provide values for procedure or supply codes. The gaps are created using various methodologies depending on the code.

For most codes, gap relative values are calculated by using relative value information from the Optum Relative Value Scale and adjusted to a scale similar to the MPFS relative values (RBRVS). The Optum relative values are developed by and are proprietary to Optum. Optum relative values are assigned when Optum has an understanding of how the procedure is typically billed by the industry and how it relates to other procedures. Relative values are based on difficulty, time, work, risk, and resources. Relative values are established by Optum employees, including an Optum Medical Director, clinicians, certified procedural coders, and analysts. Optum also consults with a panel of outside physicians and dentists during the relative value development process for certain codes.

Because Optum relative values are on a different scale than RBRVS relative values, we develop ratios relating the RBRVS and Optum scales for approximately 250 code ranges (within the CPT®, HCPCS, and CDT systems). These ratios are multiplied by the Optum relative value to create the gap value. If Optum does not assign a relative value to a code, a gap value is not calculated. An example of the methodology is as follows (numbers used are for example purposes only): Procedure code 15828 is not valued in the MPFS. Optum has a relative value of 185 for this procedure code. The calculated ratio of Optum to the MPFS relative value units for

the range of codes that this procedure code falls in is .366. The gap value would be $185 \times .366 = 67.70$.

Other codes are valued using non-MPFS Medicare sources. National pricing amounts found in Medicare's Clinical Lab Fee Schedule (CLAB) and the Medicare average sales price (ASP) drug pricing files are adjusted to relative values using the MPFS national conversion factor. Pricing information found in the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies Fee Schedule (DMEPOS) is also adjusted to generate relative values similar to the RBRVS scale. Additionally, amounts found in the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) fee schedules may be incorporated in developing relative values for some codes.

Note: Gap relative values should not be used to calculate a Medicare reimbursement rate. In addition, the gap work relative value should not be used to calculate the outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) rate.

Features

The Essential RBRVS is the most comprehensive resource-based relative value scale available. Below are *The Essential RBRVS* features:

- Physician services, including those not part of the MPFS.
- Clinical laboratory services.
- Level II codes, such as durable medical equipment (DME), medical and surgical supplies, and transportation.
- J codes (injectable drugs).
- Appendix A — This table provides the information necessary to determine if Medicare allows or makes adjustments to payment for the following: PC/TC component, assistant-at-surgery, multiple procedures, bilateral procedures, co-surgery or team surgery. The preop, intraop, and postop splits, the endoscopic base code, as well as the indicator identifying the level of physician supervision of diagnostic tests, if any, are also listed in appendix A. The special payment rules for each are identified at the beginning of the table.
- Appendix B — Payment for the technical component (TC) portion of a radiology service will be limited to the lesser of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) amount or the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) amount. This is referred to by CMS as the OPPS cap on the technical component of radiology services.

Code	M	S	Description	Work Value	Non-Fac PE	Fac PE	Mal-practice	Non-Fac Total	Fac Total	Global	Gap	OPPS
75957		C	not involving coverage of left subclavian artery origin, initial endoprosthesis plus descending thoracic aortic extension(s), if required, to level of celiac artery origin, radiological supervision and interpretation	6.00	1.33	1.33	1.10	8.43	8.43	XXX	■	
26	A			6.00	1.33	1.33	1.10	8.43	8.43	XXX		
TC	C			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■	
75958		C	Placement of proximal extension prosthesis for endovascular repair of descending thoracic aorta (eg, aneurysm, pseudoaneurysm, dissection, penetrating ulcer, intramural hematoma, or traumatic disruption), radiological supervision and interpretation	4.00	0.89	0.89	0.71	5.60	5.60	XXX	■	
26	A			4.00	0.89	0.89	0.71	5.60	5.60	XXX		
TC	C			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■	
75959		C	Placement of distal extension prosthesis(s) (delayed) after endovascular repair of descending thoracic aorta, as needed, to level of celiac origin, radiological supervision and interpretation	3.50	0.77	0.77	0.61	4.88	4.88	XXX	■	
26	A			3.50	0.77	0.77	0.61	4.88	4.88	XXX		
TC	C			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■	
75970		C	Transcatheter biopsy, radiological supervision and interpretation	0.83	11.11	11.11	0.62	12.56	12.56	XXX	■	
26	A			0.83	0.25	0.25	0.05	1.13	1.13	XXX		
TC	C			0.00	10.86	10.86	0.57	11.43	11.43	XXX	■	
75984		A	Change of percutaneous tube or drainage catheter with contrast monitoring (eg, genitourinary system, abscess), radiological supervision and interpretation	0.72	2.12	2.12	0.05	2.89	2.89	XXX		
26	A			0.72	0.23	0.23	0.04	0.99	0.99	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	1.89	1.89	0.01	1.90	1.90	XXX		
75989		A	Radiological guidance (ie, fluoroscopy, ultrasound, or computed tomography), for percutaneous drainage (eg, abscess, specimen collection), with placement of catheter, radiological supervision and interpretation	1.19	2.14	2.14	0.09	3.42	3.42	XXX		
26	A			1.19	0.38	0.38	0.08	1.65	1.65	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	1.76	1.76	0.01	1.77	1.77	XXX		
76000		A	Fluoroscopy (separate procedure), up to 1 hour physician or other qualified health care professional time	0.30	0.99	0.99	0.04	1.33	1.33	XXX		Y
26	A			0.30	0.11	0.11	0.03	0.44	0.44	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	0.88	0.88	0.01	0.89	0.89	XXX		Y
76010		A	Radiologic examination from nose to rectum for foreign body, single view, child	0.18	0.57	0.57	0.02	0.77	0.77	XXX		Y
26	A			0.18	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.26	0.26	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	0.50	0.50	0.01	0.51	0.51	XXX		Y
76080		A	Radiologic examination, abscess, fistula or sinus tract study, radiological supervision and interpretation	0.54	1.03	1.03	0.04	1.61	1.61	XXX		Y
26	A			0.54	0.17	0.17	0.03	0.74	0.74	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	0.86	0.86	0.01	0.87	0.87	XXX		Y
76098		A	Radiological examination, surgical specimen	0.16	0.29	0.29	0.02	0.47	0.47	XXX		Y
26	A			0.16	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.23	0.23	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	0.23	0.23	0.01	0.24	0.24	XXX		Y
76100		A	Radiologic examination, single plane body section (eg, tomography), other than with urography	0.58	2.03	2.03	0.06	2.67	2.67	XXX		Y
26	A			0.58	0.26	0.26	0.05	0.89	0.89	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	1.77	1.77	0.01	1.78	1.78	XXX		Y
76101		A	Radiologic examination, complex motion (ie, hypercycloidal) body section (eg, mastoid polytomography), other than with urography; unilateral	0.58	1.94	1.94	0.13	2.65	2.65	XXX		Y
26	A			0.58	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.80	0.80	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	1.84	1.84	0.01	1.85	1.85	XXX		Y
76102		A	bilateral	0.58	4.20	4.20	0.10	4.88	4.88	XXX		Y-
26	A			0.58	0.30	0.30	0.08	0.96	0.96	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	3.90	3.90	0.02	3.92	3.92	XXX		Y-
76120		A	Cineradiography/videoradiography, except where specifically included	0.38	2.46	2.46	0.03	2.87	2.87	XXX		Y
26	A			0.38	0.12	0.12	0.02	0.52	0.52	XXX		
TC	A			0.00	2.34	2.34	0.01	2.35	2.35	XXX		Y
+	76125		Cineradiography/videoradiography to complement routine examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	0.27	0.96	0.96	0.06	1.29	1.29	ZZZ	■	
26	A			0.27	0.11	0.11	0.02	0.40	0.40	ZZZ		
TC	C			0.00	0.85	0.85	0.04	0.89	0.89	ZZZ	■	
76140		I	Consultation on X-ray examination made elsewhere, written report	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX		

Code	M	S	Description	Work Value	Non-Fac PE	Fac PE	Mal-practice	Non-Fac Total	Fac Total	Global	Gap
84154		X	free	0.00	0.63	0.63	0.00	0.63	0.63	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.63	0.63	0.00	0.63	0.63	XXX	■
84155		X	Protein, total, except by refractometry; serum, plasma or whole blood	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	XXX	■
84156		X	urine	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	XXX	■
84157		X	other source (eg, synovial fluid, cerebrospinal fluid)	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	XXX	■
84160		X	Protein, total, by refractometry, any source	0.00	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.18	0.18	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.18	0.18	XXX	■
84163		X	Pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A (PAPP-A)	0.00	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.52	0.52	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.52	0.52	XXX	■
84165		X	Protein; electrophoretic fractionation and quantitation, serum	0.37	0.51	0.51	0.01	0.89	0.89	XXX	■
26		A		0.37	0.14	0.14	0.01	0.52	0.52	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.37	0.37	XXX	■
84166		X	electrophoretic fractionation and quantitation, other fluids with concentration (eg, urine, CSF)	0.37	0.75	0.75	0.01	1.13	1.13	XXX	■
26		A		0.37	0.14	0.14	0.01	0.52	0.52	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.61	0.61	0.00	0.61	0.61	XXX	■
84181		X	Western Blot, with interpretation and report, blood or other body fluid	0.37	0.72	0.72	0.01	1.10	1.10	XXX	■
26		A		0.37	0.14	0.14	0.01	0.52	0.52	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.58	0.58	XXX	■
84182		X	Western Blot, with interpretation and report, blood or other body fluid, immunological probe for band identification, each	0.37	0.95	0.95	0.01	1.33	1.33	XXX	■
26		A		0.37	0.14	0.14	0.01	0.52	0.52	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.81	0.81	0.00	0.81	0.81	XXX	■
84202		X	Protoporphyrin, RBC; quantitative	0.00	0.49	0.49	0.00	0.49	0.49	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.49	0.49	0.00	0.49	0.49	XXX	■
84203		X	screen	0.00	0.29	0.29	0.00	0.29	0.29	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.29	0.29	0.00	0.29	0.29	XXX	■
84206		X	Proinsulin	0.00	0.74	0.74	0.00	0.74	0.74	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.74	0.74	0.00	0.74	0.74	XXX	■
84207		X	Pyridoxal phosphate (Vitamin B-6)	0.00	0.96	0.96	0.00	0.96	0.96	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.96	0.96	0.00	0.96	0.96	XXX	■
84210		X	Pyruvate	0.00	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.40	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.40	XXX	■
84220		X	Pyruvate kinase	0.00	0.32	0.32	0.00	0.32	0.32	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.32	0.32	0.00	0.32	0.32	XXX	■
84228		X	Quinine	0.00	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.40	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.40	XXX	■
84233		X	Receptor assay; estrogen	0.00	2.44	2.44	0.00	2.44	2.44	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	2.44	2.44	0.00	2.44	2.44	XXX	■
84234		X	progesterone	0.00	2.22	2.22	0.00	2.22	2.22	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	2.22	2.22	0.00	2.22	2.22	XXX	■
84235		X	endocrine, other than estrogen or progesterone (specify hormone)	0.00	1.98	1.98	0.00	1.98	1.98	XXX	■
26				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	XXX	■
TC				0.00	1.98	1.98	0.00	1.98	1.98	XXX	■

■ RVU not developed by CMS. Gap value developed by Optum360.

▲ Revised Code

● New Code

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