

# Coding and Reimbursement Digest

July 2024

## Health Policy and Economics

[Volume of interventional radiology procedures performed by nurse practitioners surges 143%](#)  
[Simple IR procedure could prevent women from having hysterectomies, but most have never heard of it](#)

### Apply now for the Alternative Payment Models (APM) Workgroup

The Economics Committee has launched a new workgroup that will focus on alternative payment models (APMs). This initiative is a key step in moving IR reimbursement forward. As such, members of this committee will lay the foundation of a reimbursement model (or models) that will contribute to the success of IR as an independent specialty. Apply for this new and exciting opportunity. [Learn more and apply!](#)

### CMS releases the CY 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Proposed Rule

On July 10, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid released the CY 2025 [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule \(MPFS\) Proposed Rule](#). CMS has proposed a decrease in the conversion factor from \$33.2875 for CY 2024 to 32.3562 for CY 2025. This decrease is due to the expiration of the legislative increase for 2024 only and a budget neutrality increase of 0.05%. The proposed impact on interventional radiology is a 3% reduction in the non-facility setting and a 1% increase in the facility setting, resulting in an estimated aggregate decrease of 2%. The reduction in payments is due to how practice expenses contribute to the valuation of services. The cost of equipment and supplies to perform procedures makes up the bulk of the valuation, with clinical labor and E/M being much smaller factors for specialties like interventional radiology.

CMS has accepted the RUC recommendation for MRI monitored transurethral ultrasound of prostate (TULSA), percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of thyroid and ultrasound elastography, with some revisions to CT guidance needle placement and telemedicine evaluation and management services. CMS is additionally proposing strategies for improving global surgical payments, extending direct supervision of diagnostic tests, physicians' services, and some hospital outpatient services to allow for the supervising physician to be available immediately through a virtual presence and finally allowing the teaching physician to have a virtual presence in all teaching settings. The SIR summary can be found [here](#).

### CMS releases the CY2025 Hospital Prospective Payment System (HOPPS)

On July 10, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released the CY 2025 proposed [Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System \(HOPPS\)](#) rule. CMS proposed a 2.6% increase to the outpatient department fee schedule (OPD). The proposed conversion factor (CF) is \$89.379 for hospitals that meet the hospital outpatient quality reporting (OQR) requirements and applying the 2% reduction to those that do not with a CF equal to \$87.636. Additionally, Ambulatory surgical centers (ASC) that meet the quality reporting requirements under the ASCQR Program are proposed to receive a 2.6 % increase in payment rates. Cancer hospital payment-to-cost ratio (PCR) is proposed at 0.87 for 11 designated hospitals. CMS proposes to continually pay for multiple imaging procedures within an imaging family performed on the same date of service using the multiple imaging composite APC payment methodology. CMS will continue to pay for all multiple imaging procedures within an imaging family performed on the same date of service using the multiple imaging composite APC payment methodology and proposes to assign several new technologies to the APCs for CY 2025. These proposed policies would impact approximately 3,500 hospitals and approximately 6,100 ASCs. The SIR summary can be found [here](#).



#### IR books and resources

- [IR Coding Update book and charge sheets](#)
- [2024 Navigator® Interventional Radiology Procedures](#)
- [2024 Navigator® Evaluation and Management Services for Radiology](#)
- [IR Common Missed Coding Revenue](#)

#### IR billing and coding courses

- [2023 SIR Revenue Cycle Management course](#)
- [2023 Coding Update On-demand](#)

#### IR Quarterly

- [Summer 2024 Coding for thoracic duct cannulation](#)
- [Spring 2024 Intraoperative computed tomography](#)

#### SIR members, we are here to help

[Submit your coding question to our experts.](#)  
[Submit your denied IR procedure.](#)