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CMS, Inc. Recommendations for IMRT Accepted by Medicare
2005 Reimbursement Up to \$687 per Procedure

St. Louis – January 21, 2005 – Recommendations made by CMS, Inc. to Medicare for compensator-based IMRT treatment delivery have been accepted in Medicare's 2005 final rules that apply to hospital outpatient departments and freestanding cancer centers effective January 1st.

For the hospital outpatient setting, Medicare agreed with CMS' recommendation to assign a new Category III code for compensator-based IMRT treatment delivery, 0073T, to APC 0412 with a status indicator of "S" (significant procedure). Both 0073T and 77418 (MLC-based IMRT delivery) are assigned to APC 412 with an average 2005 payment of \$309.20.

For the physician fee schedule, which applies to freestanding radiation oncology centers and physician offices, Medicare approved the request of CMS, Inc. for a national payment policy for compensator-based IMRT using the new Category III code 0073T. 0073T will be assigned 18.15 interim RVUs, more than MLC-based IMRT (18.11 RVUs). The 2005 national average payment for 0073T is \$687.84 (2005 conversion factor is \$37.8975).

In Medicare's response to CMS' physician fee schedule comment they stated:

"As noted by the commenters, we generally do not nationally-price tracking codes (Category III CPT codes), which are most often used to report new or experimental services. Rather, we designate them as carrier priced until there is sufficient volume and information to develop appropriate RVUs. However, solid compensator IMRT is an established technology that is currently paid both under the physician fee schedule and in the hospital outpatient department. We are concerned that having this service be reported using a carrier-priced tracking code could have an adverse effect on access to this technology. Therefore, we are assigning interim RVUs to this tracking code. For payment under the physician fee schedule, we will crosswalk the practice expense and malpractice RVUs assigned to CPT code 77418 to the Category III tracking code 0073T. (Note that this is a technical component only service and there are no associated physician work RVUs.)"

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A full summary of the 2005 Medicare regulations has been posted to the CMS Web site located at cmsrtp.com.

CMS, Inc. is a world leader in the development and support of radiation treatment software. With treatment planning systems installed in over 1,500 sites worldwide, CMS is a global resource to radiation oncology departments for treatment planning software and prostate brachytherapy systems. A privately-held corporation, CMS employs 250 professionals in its headquarters located in St. Louis, Missouri and regional offices in Champaign, Illinois; Freiburg, Germany; Shanghai, China; and Tokyo, Japan.

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