

Coverage:

On September 28, 2009, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Final Decision Memorandum addressing changes to the National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. At the request of the Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR), the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the American College of Radiology (ACR), and the North American Society of Cardiovascular Imaging (NASCI) CMS agreed to delete its instructions for national non-coverage of blood flow measurement. This will permit local Medicare contractor discretion to cover this use under Section 220.2(D) of the Final Decision Memorandum.

CMS also received a separate request from industry to revise the reference to cardiac pacemakers to permit coverage for MRI when a beneficiary has an implanted device that has been designed, tested and FDA labeled for use in the MRI environment. CMS declined to change coverage for this portion of the request.

The changes will become effective in January 2010. To review the entire NCD, please go to:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewdecisionmemo.asp?id=228>

Coding:

In 2008, eight new codes were developed to describe cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (75557-75564). Codes 75558, 75560, 75562, and 75564 include blood flow measurement. For 2009, practices that perform flow velocity measurement services should continue to use codes 75558, 75560, 75562 or 75564, as they accurately describe the procedure performed.

Effective January 1, 2010, codes 75558, 75560, 75562 and 75564 will be deleted. When a flow velocity measurement is determined, it will be reported with the new add-on code 75565 (see language below). This new add-on code will be used in conjunction with the cardiac MRI codes 75557, 75559, 75561, and 75563. As noted in the American Medical Association's CPT 2010 code book, only one cardiac MRI code may be reported per session, and only one flow velocity measurement may be reported per session.

New code language

+75565 Cardiac Magnetic resonance imaging for velocity flow mapping (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

(Use 75565 in conjunction with 75557, 75559, 75561, 75563)

► (Do not report 75557-75565 in conjunction with 76376, 76377) ◀

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