
Program Memorandum Carriers

**Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)**

Transmittal B-02-075

Date: NOVEMBER 1, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2421

SUBJECT: Carrier Review of Payment Amounts for Portable X-Ray Transportation Services (HCPCS code R0070)--REQUEST

Transportation for portable X-ray services (HCPCS code R0070) is paid under the Medicare physician fee schedule. There are no national relative values for this service. CMS has not established national relative values for this service because there are no national data for these services and because there are significant differences in the delivery of this service in different geographic areas. Instead, each carrier is required to determine the payment amounts for its geographic areas.

CMS has not established specific criteria that carriers should use in determining the payment amounts they establish for "carrier priced" services. CMS has not established a specific annual update factor to be applied to these services. Mid-year adjustments are possible if the carrier believes such adjustments are appropriate. Such an appropriation provides carriers with the flexibility to take into account local factors affecting the level of resources required to perform this service.

Carriers should periodically review at least every 5 years, or more frequently if local conditions warrant, their locally determined payment amounts to determine whether the payment amounts reflect the relative resources (i.e., staff, equipment, supplies and general expenses) required to perform carrier-priced services. Such periodic reviews for carrier priced services would be consistent with statutory requirements. If portable X-ray transportation suppliers request such a review, carriers should work with the local suppliers to review the payment amounts for R0070, taking into account local factors and any data available regarding the resources required to provide these services.

The *effective date* for this Program Memorandum (PM) is October 1, 2002.

The *implementation date* for this PM is November 1, 2002.

This Program Memorandum should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after November 1, 2003.

If you have any questions, contact Roberta Epps at 410-786-4503.