

## **REVIEW OF MEDICARE FEE SCHEDULE CHANGES FROM 2020 TO 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 FOR SELECT NEUROMODULATION CODES**

The table below displays Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rates for a series of commonly used neuromodulation and interventional pain management procedure CPT codes. These are for the Medicare rates for physician work and not the facility fee assigned by Medicare and paid to the ASC or Outpatient facility. Those rates are set in a different fee schedule and had an overall increase in payments for 2021, along with other changes.

Overall, the Non-Facility (Office setting) payment rates are slightly increased from 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 while the Facility (Outpatient/ASC setting) payment rates are slightly decreased from 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021.

### How We Got Here

Every calendar Medicare updates payment rates for the entire fee schedule, with changes to individual procedure Relative Value Units (RVUs) as well as the overall Medicare Conversion Factor used to calculate the total payment under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The conversion factor reflects the cumulative impact of individual RVU changes across all procedures and services paid under the fee schedule such that major increases in individual service RVUs will cause the conversion factor to decrease while major decreases in RVUs will cause the conversion factor to increase.

For CY 2021, as the table below shows, there were major increases to the RVUs for the series of codes used to report patient office visits (Evaluation and Management services, CPT codes 99202-99215). The cumulative impact of the E/M increases caused a decrease to the conversion factor of approximately 11%.

However, in the COVID-19 Relief package passed by the US Congress at the end of December 2020, several items were included in the legislation that reduced the 11% conversion factor decrease by about 7% to an overall reduction around 4%. As a result, many procedures that would have otherwise had significant decreases in Medicare reimbursement will have either small decreases or small increases. Tables 1 and 2 provide information on how the payment rate changes that are now in effect compare to the 2020 rates and the payment rate changes that were proposed for 2021 but were increased by Congress.

The new physician fee schedule conversion factor for 2021 is \$34.89. That is higher than the conversion factor finalized in the rule released in December, but 3.3 percent less than the 2020 conversion factor.

Specifically, the legislation included the following components related to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule:

- A 3.75% increase in Medicare payments
- Suspension of a scheduled 2% Medicare payment reduction that was part of previous legislation through March 31, 2021

- Delayed implementation of the inherent complexity add-on code for evaluation and management services performed by internal medicine physicians (G2211) until CY 2024

It is important to keep in mind that the second item described above-the suspended 2% payment reduction, will expire on March 31, 2021 unless Congress moves to maintain the suspension through the end of the year or beyond.

The Tables below shows the payment changes from 2020 to 2021 for several common neuromodulation and interventional pain management codes including the changes to the E/M patient visit codes. Should there be additional changes made in 2021, NANS will update the figures below to reflect any changes.

Table 1 shows the same set of procedures and services and the 2020 payment rates (same as above) and the payment rates proposed by CMS for 2021 before the December federal legislation that increased Medicare physician payment rates for 2021. It is important to remember that this is what the fee schedule would have been and is presented for information so that members are aware of the amount of relief provided by the COVID-19 relief legislation.

**TABLE 1**

CPT <sup>1</sup> / HCPCS	Description	2020 Medicare Physician Payment non- facility (office)	2020 Medicare Physician Payment facility	Proposed (but changed) Medicare Physician Payment non-facility (office)	Proposed (but changed) Medicare Physician Payment facility	2021 Final Medicare Physician Payment non-facility (office)	2021 Final Medicare Physician Payment facility	% Change in Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Payment non- facility (office) from 2020- 2021	% Change in Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Payment facility from 2020- 2021
20553	Inject trigger points 3/>	\$ 65.68	\$ 45.11	\$ 59.31	\$ 40.83	\$ 63.35	\$ 43.51	-3.55%	-3.53%
20610	Drain/inj joint/bursa w/o us	\$ 63.88	\$ 47.64	\$ 61.25	\$ 43.10	\$ 65.59	\$ 46.75	2.68%	-1.86%
20611	Drain/inj joint/bursa w/us	\$96.72	\$62.44	\$93.99	\$57.04	\$100.95	\$61.27	4.37%	-1.87%
27096	Inject sacroiliac joint	\$ 166.37	\$ 86.25	\$ 162.04	\$ 79.08	\$ 169.87	\$ 84.59	2.11%	-1.93%
62321	Njx interlaminar crv/thrc	\$ 265.98	\$ 111.52	\$ 266.07	\$ 102.41	\$ 277.72	\$ 109.55	4.42%	-1.76%
62322	Njx interlaminar lmb/sac	\$ 154.10	\$ 87.70	\$ 140.98	\$ 77.13	\$ 148.98	\$ 82.69	-3.32%	-5.71%

62323	Njx interlaminar Imbr/sac	\$ 263.09	\$ 103.22	\$ 262.51	\$ 94.63	\$ 273.89	\$ 100.83	4.10%	-2.31%
62350	Implant spinal canal cath		\$ 413.23		\$ 385.34		\$ 409.26		-0.96%
62355	Remove spinal canal catheter		\$ 281.14		\$ 264.45		\$ 279.82		-0.47%
62360	Insert spine infusion device		\$ 326.25		\$ 310.47		\$ 329.36		0.95%
62361	Implant spine infusion pump		\$ 444.62		\$ 418.07		\$ 444.85		0.05%
62362	Implant spine infusion pump		\$ 398.07		\$ 372.70		\$ 396.70		-0.34%
62365	Remove spine infusion device	\$ -	\$ 306.04		\$ 287.14		\$ 304.94		-0.36%
62367	Analyze spine infus pump	\$ 33.20	\$ 26.35	\$ 31.11	\$ 24.31	\$ 32.10	\$ 25.12	-3.32%	-4.66%
62368	Analyze sp inf pump w/reprog	\$ 46.56	\$ 37.17	\$ 42.78	\$ 33.38	\$ 45.71	\$ 35.94	-1.83%	-3.32%
62369	Anal sp inf pmp w/reprg&fill	\$ 98.52	\$ 37.17	\$ 95.28	\$ 33.38	\$ 99.44	\$ 36.29	0.93%	-2.38%
62370	Anl sp inf pmp w/mdreprog&fil	\$ 102.13	\$ 48.36	\$ 96.90	\$ 44.08	\$ 101.18	\$ 47.45	-0.93%	-1.88%
63650	Implant neuroelectrodes	\$ 1,955.23	\$ 430.55	\$ 2,245.91	\$ 399.60	\$ 2,319.14	\$ 423.91	18.61%	-1.54%
63655	Implant neuroelectrodes		\$ 866.51		\$ 806.32		\$ 861.43		-0.59%
63661	Remove spine eltrd perq aray	\$ 661.16	\$ 336.72	\$ 672.48	\$ 314.69	\$ 705.13	\$ 334.60	6.65%	-0.63%
63662	Remove spine eltrd plate		\$ 876.98		\$ 816.69		\$ 872.95		-0.46%
63663	Revise spine eltrd perq aray	\$ 879.86	\$ 469.16	\$ 890.59	\$ 436.22	\$ 929.47	\$ 462.64	5.64%	-1.39%

63664	Revise spine eltrd plate		\$ 912.71		\$ 849.10		\$ 907.49		-0.57%
63685	Insrt/redo spine n generator		\$ 374.25		\$ 350.66		\$ 372.63		-0.43%
63688	Revise/re move neurorece iver		\$ 386.16		\$ 359.73		\$ 382.74		-0.88%
64451	Njx aa&/strd nrvtg si jt	\$ 216.18	\$ 82.65	\$ 219.41	\$ 75.19	\$ 229.58	\$ 80.25	6.20%	-2.91%
64454	Njx aa&/strd gnclr nrvtg brnch	\$ 218.34	\$ 85.17	\$ 218.43	\$ 85.17	\$ 228.88	\$ 83.04	4.83%	-2.50%
64479	Njx aa&/strd tfrm epi c/t 1	\$ 262.01	\$ 136.08	\$ 262.18	\$ 124.77	\$ 274.93	\$ 133.28	4.93%	-2.06%
64480	Njx aa&/strd tfrm epi c/t ea	\$ 130.28	\$ 64.96	\$ 132.55	\$ 58.98	\$ 139.21	\$ 63.50	6.86%	-2.25%
64483	Njx aa&/strd tfrm epi l/s 1	\$ 242.88	\$ 115.85	\$ 244.36	\$ 106.30	\$ 255.74	\$ 113.39	5.30%	-2.12%
64484	Njx aa&/strd tfrm epi l/s ea	\$ 106.83	\$ 54.13	\$ 109.22	\$ 49.26	\$ 114.79	\$ 53.03	7.45%	-2.03%
64490	Inj paravert f jnt c/t 1 lev	\$ 195.61	\$ 109.71	\$ 190.56	\$ 101.11	\$ 199.57	\$ 107.81	2.02%	-1.73%
64491	Inj paravert f jnt c/t 2 lev	\$ 98.16	\$ 62.44	\$ 95.61	\$ 57.04	\$ 100.83	\$ 61.41	2.72%	-1.66%
64492	Inj paravert f jnt c/t 3 lev	\$ 98.89	\$ 63.16	\$ 95.93	\$ 58.01	\$ 101.18	\$ 62.45	2.32%	-1.12%
64493	Inj paravert f jnt l/s 1 lev	\$ 177.92	\$ 93.11	\$ 174.36	\$ 85.88	\$ 183.17	\$ 92.11	2.95%	-1.07%
64494	Inj paravert f jnt l/s 2 lev	\$ 91.31	\$ 53.77	\$ 89.45	\$ 49.26	\$ 93.85	\$ 52.68	2.79%	-2.02%
64495	Inj paravert f jnt l/s 3 lev	\$ 91.31	\$ 54.50	\$ 89.45	\$ 49.91	\$ 93.85	\$ 53.38	2.79%	-2.05%

64510	N block stellate ganglion	\$ 142.55	\$ 77.95	\$ 145.19	\$ 73.57	\$ 151.77	\$ 78.50	6.47%	0.71%
64520	N block lumbar/thoracic	\$ 219.79	\$ 85.89	\$ 229.45	\$ 80.70	\$ 238.30	\$ 85.83	8.42%	-0.07%
64553	Implant neuroelectrodes	\$ 2,075.15	\$ 371.36	\$ 2,400.50	\$ 347.42	\$ 2,497.78	\$ 370.18	20.37%	-0.32%
64555	Implant neuroelectrodes	\$ 1,921.77	\$ 356.20	\$ 2,195.68	\$ 326.35	\$ 2,274.13	\$ 347.16	18.34%	-2.54%
64561	Implant neuroelectrodes	\$ 770.87	\$ 316.51	\$ 770.67	\$ 292.32	\$ 796.54	\$ 309.47	3.33%	-2.22%
64620	Injection treatment of nerve	\$ 215.09	\$ 181.53	\$ 204.17	\$ 169.50	\$ 215.62	\$ 180.03	0.25%	-0.82%
64624	Dstrj nulyt agt gnclr nrv	\$ 417.56	\$ 152.66	\$ 406.73	\$ 140.00	\$ 424.61	\$ 149.68	1.69%	-1.95%
64625	Rf abltj nrv nrvtg si jt	\$ 510.31	\$ 201.74	\$ 495.20	\$ 185.05	\$ 517.42	\$ 197.13	1.39%	-2.29%
64633	Destroy cerv/thor facet jnt	\$ 430.91	\$ 233.14	\$ 419.04	\$ 215.52	\$ 437.52	\$ 228.88	1.53%	-1.83%
64634	Destroy c/th facet jnt addl	\$ 192.72	\$ 70.74	\$ 189.59	\$ 64.49	\$ 197.48	\$ 69.08	2.47%	-2.34%
64635	Destroy lumb/sac facet jnt	\$ 426.22	\$ 229.89	\$ 414.50	\$ 212.60	\$ 433.33	\$ 225.74	1.67%	-1.81%
64636	Destroy l/s facet jnt addl	\$ 175.76	\$ 62.07	\$ 173.06	\$ 56.71	\$ 180.03	\$ 60.71	2.43%	-2.19%
64640	Injection treatment of nerve	\$ 254.43	\$ 121.98	\$ 250.52	\$ 113.11	\$ 262.02	\$ 120.72	2.98%	-1.03%
95970	Alys npgt w/o prgrmg	\$ 19.85	\$ 19.49	\$ 18.15	\$ 17.82	\$ 19.54	\$ 19.19	-1.57%	-1.54%
95971	Alys smpl sp/pn npgt w/prgrm	\$ 51.97	\$ 42.22	\$ 46.35	\$ 37.60	\$ 49.89	\$ 40.47	-4.00%	-4.14%
95972	Alys cplx sp/pn npgt w/prgrm	\$ 58.47	\$ 42.95	\$ 53.48	\$ 38.89	\$ 57.57	\$ 41.87	-1.54%	-2.52%
95991	Spin/brain pump refill & main	\$ 116.91	\$ 41.86	\$ 108.90	\$ 38.24	\$ 117.23	\$ 41.17	0.27%	-1.65%
								<b>Mean Change</b>	<b>3.44%</b>
								<b>Median Change</b>	<b>-1.72%</b>
								<b>Median Change</b>	<b>-1.83%</b>

99202	Office o/p new sf 15- 29 min	\$ 77.23	\$ 51.61	\$ 69.03	\$ 46.02	\$ 73.97	\$ 49.89	-4.23%	-3.33%
99203	Office o/p new low 30-44 min	\$ 109.35	\$ 77.23	\$ 106.30	\$ 36.62	\$ 113.74	\$ 84.43	4.02%	9.33%
99204	Office o/p new mod 45-59 min	\$ 167.09	\$ 132.09	\$ 159.77	\$ 128.34	\$ 169.91	\$ 137.47	1.69%	4.07%
99205	Office o/p new hi 60- 74 min	\$ 211.12	\$ 172.51	\$ 210.98	\$ 174.36	\$ 224.34	\$ 186.66	6.26%	8.20%
99211	Office o/p est minimal prob	\$ 23.46	\$ 9.38	\$ 22.04	\$ 8.75	\$ 23.03	\$ 9.07	-1.84%	-3.29%
99212	Office o/p est sf 10- 19 min	\$ 46.19	\$ 26.35	\$ 54.12	\$ 34.35	\$ 56.87	\$ 36.29	23.12%	37.71%
99213	Office o/p est low 20-29 min	\$ 76.15	\$ 52.33	\$ 86.85	\$ 63.20	\$ 92.46	\$ 68.04	21.42%	30.01%
99214	Office o/p est mod 30-39 min	\$ 110.43	\$ 80.48	\$ 123.48	\$ 93.34	\$ 131.19	\$ 100.48	18.80%	24.85%
99215	Office o/p est hi 40- 54 min	\$ 148.33	\$ 113.68	\$ 172.74	\$ 138.38	\$ 183.17	\$ 147.93	23.49%	30.13%
99441	Phone e/m phys/qhp 5-10 min			\$ 54.12	\$ 34.35	\$ 56.87	\$ 36.29		
99442	Phone e/m phys/qhp 11-20 min			\$ 87.18	\$ 63.52	\$ 92.81	\$ 68.38		
99443	Phone e/m phys/qhp 21-30 min			\$ 124.12	\$ 93.98	\$ 131.54	\$ 100.83		
							<b>Mean Change</b>	<b>10.30%</b>	<b>15.30%</b>
							<b>Median Change</b>	<b>6.26%</b>	<b>9.33%</b>