



December 4, 2009

Alfred A. Bove, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.
President
American College of Cardiology

Dear Dr. Bove:

Thank you for your November 19, 2009 letter to Doctor Donald Fischer regarding the 2010 CPT coding changes for myocardial SPECT and planar myocardial perfusion imaging (SPECT-MPT) and related reimbursement issues.

We share your desire to accurately implement these new codes for 2010. Under the present coding structure, Highmark's reimburses ejection fraction and/or wall motion studies represented by deleted codes 78478 and 78480 when they are reported with one of the myocardial perfusion imaging codes (78460, 78461, 78464, and 48465). Under the new 2010 coding structure, Highmark's current clinical policy on myocardial perfusion imaging will be updated to remove the deleted codes and replace them with the four new codes (78451, 78452, 78453, and 78454). These new codes will be considered eligible and effective as of January 1, 2010. Highmark's revised policy on myocardial perfusion imaging (R-5) with the new codes will be available at www.Highmark.com on January 4, 2010 (please find under the "Medical Policy" tab).

Providers can work with their Provider Relations representative to resolve claim payment issues as needed. If a member or provider receives an adverse determination, their denial letter outlines what are their appeal rights and how to access them. Information on the appeal process is also available in the Provider Resource Center on our public website.

Effective January 1, 2010, Highmark will end date the deleted codes and add the four new codes (78451, 78452, 78453, and 78454) to our reimbursement schedules. Reimbursement for the new codes will be loosely based on the crosswalks as you have outlined in your attachment. Thus, our payment levels will be comfortably above the allowances posted on the 2010 CMS schedule. Provider communication is also planned.

Thank you for your inquiry on this important coding update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virginia C. Calega".

Virginia C. Calega, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Management and Policy



December 4, 2009

Jennifer H. Mieres, M.D., F.A.S.N.C.
President
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology

Dear Dr. Mieres,

Thank you for your November 19, 2009 letter to Doctor Donald Fischer regarding the 2010 CPT coding changes for myocardial SPECT and planar myocardial perfusion imaging (SPECT-MPT) and related reimbursement issues.

We share your desire to accurately implement these new codes for 2010. Under the present coding structure, Highmark's reimburses ejection fraction and/or wall motion studies represented by deleted codes 78478 and 78480 when they are reported with one of the myocardial perfusion imaging codes (78460, 78461, 78464, and 48465). Under the new 2010 coding structure, Highmark's current clinical policy on myocardial perfusion imaging will be updated to remove the deleted codes and replace them with the four new codes (78451, 78452, 78453, and 78454). These new codes will be considered eligible and effective as of January 1, 2010. Highmark's revised policy on myocardial perfusion imaging (R-5) with the new codes will be available at www.Highmark.com on January 4, 2010 (please find under the "Medical Policy" tab).

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Virginia C. Calega, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Management and Policy



December 4, 2009

Michael Graham, M.D., Ph.D.
President
Society of Nuclear Medicine

Dear Dr. Graham:

Thank you for your November 19, 2009 letter to Doctor Donald Fischer regarding the 2010 CPT coding changes for myocardial SPECT and planar myocardial perfusion imaging (SPECT-MPT) and related reimbursement issues.

We share your desire to accurately implement these new codes for 2010. Under the present coding structure, Highmark's reimburses ejection fraction and/or wall motion studies represented by deleted codes 78478 and 78480 when they are reported with one of the myocardial perfusion imaging codes (78460, 78461, 78464, and 48465). Under the new 2010 coding structure, Highmark's current clinical policy on myocardial perfusion imaging will be updated to remove the deleted codes and replace them with the four new codes (78451, 78452, 78453, and 78454). These new codes will be considered eligible and effective as of January 1, 2010. Highmark's revised policy on myocardial perfusion imaging (R-5) with the new codes will be available at www.Highmark.com on January 4, 2010 (please find under the "Medical Policy" tab).

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Virginia C. Calega, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Management and Policy