

instructions do not clearly state how to code when the procedure performed is not as extensive as the procedure planned (for example, when a colonoscopy is planned but only a sigmoidoscopy is performed). In these cases, coding instructions are unclear as to whether the planned procedure should be reported with a modifier for reduced services or with the code for the actual procedure performed.

The Panel recommended that we make no changes to APCs 0146 and 0147 at this time. We propose to accept the Panel's recommendation that we make no changes to APCs 0146 and 0147. We plan to place this APC on the Panel's agenda for the 2005 update.

i. Anal/Rectal Procedures.

APC 0148: Level I Anal/Rectal Procedure.

APC 0149: Level III Anal/Rectal Procedure.

APC 0155: Level II Anal/Rectal Procedure.

We expressed concern to the Panel that APCs 0148 and 0149 appear to violate the 2 times rule. We asked the Panel to recommend options for resolving these violations, and suggested rearranging some of the CPT codes within APCs 0148, 0149, and 0155. The Panel recommended that we move CPT code 46040 (Incision of rectal abscess) from APC 0155 to APC 0149. We propose to accept the Panel's recommendation.

j. Insertion of Penile Prosthesis.

APC 0179: Urinary Incontinence Procedures.

APC 0182: Insertion of Penile Prosthesis.

A presenter to the Panel representing manufacturers and providers requested that APC 0182 be split into two APCs, based on whether the procedure used inflatable or non-inflatable penile prostheses. The presenter stated that the complexity of the procedure, the cost of

the devices, and related resources were all significantly higher with inflatable prostheses.

The Panel recommended that we eliminate APCs 0179 and 0182 and create two new APCs, 0385 and 0386 that contain the following CPT codes:

HCPSCS	Description
APC 0385:	
52282	Cystoscopy, implant stent.
53440	Correct bladder function.
53444	Insert tandem cuff.
54400	Insert semi-rigid prosthesis.
54416	Remv/repl penis contain pros-thesis.
APC 0386:	
53445	Insert uro/ves nck sphincter.
53447	Remove/replace ur sphincter.
54401	Insert self-contained pros-thesis.
54405	Insert multi-comp penis pros-thesis.
54410	Remove/replace penis pros-thesis.

We propose to accept the Panel's recommendation to eliminate APCs 0179 and 0182 and create two new APCs, 0644 and 0645, containing the above CPT code configurations.

k. Surgical Hysterectomy.

APC 0190: Surgical Hysterectomy.

A presenter to the Panel, who represented a device manufacturer, requested that we move CPT code 58563 (Hysterectomy, ablation) from APC 0190 to a higher paying APC. The presenter noted that endometrial cryoablation is included in a new technology APC, while a thermal ablation system is included with older, less costly techniques. The presenter expressed concern that cryoablation may be reimbursed at a higher rate than the thermal ablation system, giving its manufacturers an unfair competitive advantage.

Panel members agreed that new, more expensive technologies that prove to be

more effective merit review for a higher payment rate. Without substantial evidence of greater effectiveness, however, the Panel was reluctant to create APCs that provide an incentive to use a more expensive device. In its discussion of whether or not to recommend moving CPT code 58563 to a higher paying APC, the Panel recommended that we take into account different methods of endometrial ablation associated with hysteroscopy, adequately reflect the resources used for the various procedures, avoid creating a competitive advantage or disadvantage, and collect data needed to track costs on the type of technologies used for this procedure.

After consulting with experts in the field, we propose to split APC 0190 (Surgical Hysterectomy) into 2 APCs that are more clinically homogeneous. We propose to change the description for APC 0190 from "Surgical Hysterectomy" to "Level I Hysterectomy" and keep the following HCPCS codes in APC 0190:

HCPSCS	Description
58558	Hysterectomy, biopsy.
58559	Hysterectomy, lysis.
58562	Hysterectomy, remove fb.
58579	Hysteroscope procedure.

We also propose to move the following HCPCS codes from APC 0190 to newly created APC 0387 titled "Level II Hysterectomy":

HCPSCS	Description
58560	Hysterectomy, resect septum.
58561	Hysterectomy, remove myoma.
58563	Hysterectomy, ablation.

In addition, we propose to move the following HCPCS codes as described below:

TABLE 2.—HCPCS CODES PROPOSED TO BE REDISTRIBUTED TO APCs 0130, 0195, AND 0190

HCPSCS	Description	2003 APC	2004 APC
58578	Laparoscopic procedure, uterus	0190	0130
58353	Endometrial ablate, thermal	0193	0195
58555	Hysterectomy, diagnostic, sep. procedure	0194	0190

We believe these proposed changes take into account the different technologies used to perform these procedures while maintaining the clinical comparability of these APCs as well as improving their homogeneity in terms of resource consumption.

l. Female Reproductive Procedures.

APC 0195: Level VII Female Reproductive Proc. APC 0202: Level VIII Female Reproductive Proc.

A commenter requested that we place CPT code 57288 (Repair bladder defect) in its own APC because it requires the use of a device. Our staff suggested that CPT codes 57288 and 57287 remain in APC 0202, while the remaining codes in APC 0202 be moved to APC 0195:

HCPSCS	Description
57109	Vaginectomy partial w/nodes.
58920	Partial removal of ovary(s).
58925	Removal of ovarian cyst(s).

The Panel agreed with our staff, and we propose to accept the Panel's recommendation to move CPT codes