

TABLE 8.—APCs WITH MEDIAN COST DECREASES OF 10 PERCENT OR MORE

Final APC	Description	SI	Final 2003 dampened median cost	2004 proposed rule APC median cost	% diff APC median cost (2003 dampened vs. 2004 proposed rule)
0312	Radioelement Applications	S	\$3,141.77	\$216.18	– 93.12
0330	Dental Procedures	S	284.02	32.87	– 88.43
0692	Electronic Analysis of Neurostimulator Pulse Generators	S	371.55	56.40	– 84.82
0651	Complex Interstitial Radiation Source Application	S	3,250.63	588.67	– 81.89
0225	Implantation of Neurostimulator Electrodes	S	8,277.07	3,283.68	– 60.33
0352	Level I Injections	X	13.10	6.31	– 51.83
0068	CPAP Initiation	S	123.29	65.83	– 46.61
0124	Revision of Implanted Infusion Pump	T	2,975.12	1,608.78	– 45.93
0688	Revision/Removal of Neurostimulator Pulse Generator Receiver	T	4,429.71	2,495.57	– 43.66
1719	Brachytx seed, Non-HDR Ir-192	K	31.04	17.89	– 42.36
0699	Level IV Eye Tests & Treatments	T	223.07	130.15	– 41.65
0199	Obstetrical Care Service	T	232.46	142.74	– 38.59
0313	Brachytherapy	S	1,249.57	769.14	– 38.45
0236	Level II Posterior Segment Eye Procedures	T	1,873.66	1,153.59	– 38.43
0123	Bone Marrow Harvesting and Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant	S	380.54	234.84	– 38.29
0223	Implantation or Revision of Pain Management Catheter	T	2,437.21	1,525.61	– 37.40
0385	Level I Prosthetic Urological Procedures	T	6,199.09	3,895.76	– 37.16
0681	Knee Arthroplasty	T	8,780.47	5,669.25	– 35.43
0302	Level III Radiation Therapy	S	548.35	363.26	– 33.75
0301	Level II Radiation Therapy	S	187.53	125.03	– 33.33
0094	Level I Resuscitation and Cardioversion	S	228.18	154.77	– 32.17
0671	Level II Echocardiogram Except Transesophageal	S	140.57	96.05	– 31.67
0098	Injection of Sclerosing Solution	T	99.06	68.15	– 31.20
0346	Level II Transfusion Laboratory Procedures	X	30.59	22.72	– 25.73
0043	Closed Treatment Fracture Finger/Toe/Trunk	T	148.63	112.70	– 24.17
0687	Revision/Removal of Neurostimulator Electrodes	T	1,535.37	1,171.45	– 23.70
0359	Level II Injections	X	67.50	51.53	– 23.66
0122	Level II Tube changes and Repositioning	T	638.40	494.56	– 22.53
0363	Level I Otorhinolaryngologic Function Tests	X	64.56	50.02	– 22.52
0081	Non-Coronary Angioplasty or Atherectomy	T	2,584.47	2,041.29	– 21.02
0191	Level I Female Reproductive Proc	T	12.27	9.84	– 19.80
0685	Level III Needle Biopsy/Aspiration Except Bone Marrow	T	355.90	286.61	– 19.47
0371	Level I Allergy Injections	X	29.69	23.93	– 19.39
0152	Percutaneous Abdominal and Biliary Procedures	T	595.64	486.01	– 18.41
0222	Implantation of Neurological Device	T	13,528.13	11,061.74	– 18.23
0118	Chemotherapy Administration by Both Infusion and Other Technique	S	325.75	267.63	– 17.84
0086	Ablate Heart Dysrhythm Focus	T	3,138.30	2,611.43	– 16.79
0202	Level VIII Female Reproductive Proc	T	2,706.38	2,273.91	– 15.98
0228	Creation of Lumbar Subarachnoid Shunt	T	3,541.71	2,996.28	– 15.40
0347	Level III Transfusion Laboratory Procedures	X	66.49	56.52	– 14.99
0245	Level I Cataract Procedures without IOL Insert	T	863.71	736.87	– 14.69
0189	Level III Female Reproductive Proc	T	90.69	77.39	– 14.67
0085	Level II Electrophysiologic Evaluation	T	2,478.31	2,128.77	– 14.10
0665	Bone Density: Appendicular Skeleton	S	49.02	42.34	– 13.63
0670	Intravenous and Intracardiac Ultrasound	S	1,796.55	1,555.61	– 13.41
0368	Level II Pulmonary Tests	X	62.61	54.62	– 12.76
0107	Insertion of Cardioverter-Defibrillator	T	19,378.60	17,025.21	– 12.14
0362	Level III Otorhinolaryngologic Function Tests	X	168.41	148.74	– 11.68
0287	Complex Venography	S	415.06	368.16	– 11.30
0120	Infusion Therapy Except Chemotherapy	T	129.56	115.11	– 11.15
0212	Nervous System Injections	T	196.63	175.73	– 10.63
0004	Level I Needle Biopsy/ Aspiration Except Bone Marrow	T	103.36	92.43	– 10.57
0676	Level II Transcatheter Thrombolysis	T	245.24	219.77	– 10.39
0268	Ultrasound Guidance Procedures	S	82.47	74.07	– 10.19
0106	Insertion/Replacement/Repair of Pacemaker and/or Electrodes	T	3,256.61	2,927.17	– 10.12

We solicit comments on the proposed weights for all APCs and for the APC placement of all HCPCS codes. However, because we believe the public may be interested in commenting on APCs where the payment rate decreases, we discuss several APCs whose

payment rates decrease by more than 10 percent. We are particularly interested in comments, including the submission of external data (as discussed below) regarding these APCs.

Discussion of Selected APCs

APC 312 Radioelement Applications—The proposed median for this APC falls 93.12 percent in comparison with the 2003 adjusted median (from \$3,141.77 to \$216.18). The 2003 OPFS median was adjusted against