

TABLE 1.—ITEMS NEEDING SPECIALTY INPUT—Continued

2003 PE supply description	2003 PE unit	2003 PE price	Primary specialties	Prior status of supply item	Commenter response	CMS action taken
Sealant spray .....	.....	.....	Radiation oncology, diagnostic.	See Note C	None	See Note D.
Silverman needle	1 item	66.35	Urology	See Note A	None	Deleted.
Skin prep, one step ..	1 item	26.00	Cardiology	Need inches used per procedure (196in per roll).	None	See Note D.
Smoke evacuation cartridge.	1 item	146.50	Obstetrics, gynecology.	See Note A	None	Deleted.
Sterile, hand table drape (24x43).	.....	.....	Orthopaedic surgery, hand surgery.	Item Deleted. Integral part of hand/upper extremity drape supply item.	Agree	Deleted.
Sterilizing tray	1 each	64.00	Radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology.	See Note A	None	Deleted.
Steroid	1 cc	1.29	Urology	See Note B	None	Deleted.
Sweat cells, 4 in a set.	1 set	260.00	Neurology	See Note A	None	Deleted.
Thrombectomy device.	1 item	600.00	Diagnostic radiology	Additional information required. Device is reusable. Need to identify specific PTD single-use accessories (e.g. sheath rotator drive basket).	Disagree—device is not reusable.	Agree—Retained.
Tourniquet, ankle, sterile.	1 item .....	.....	Podiatry, orthopaedic surgery.	See Note A	Disagree—packaged for single use. Price submitted at \$42.87.	Agree—retained at submitted price.
Tourniquet, cuff sterile.	.....	.....	Orthopaedic surgery, hand surgery.	See Note A	Agree	Deleted.
Traction straps	1 item	60.00	Radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology.	See Note A	None	Deleted.
Transtelephonic monitor.	10.56	Cardiology	See Note A	Agree—resuable, but requests item be retained.	Disagree—Deleted.

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Notes:

- A. Item deleted. Reusable
- B. Item deleted. Separately Billable
- C. Additional information required.
- D. Issue is pending. Still under review.
- E. Issue is pending. Reuse discussion needed.

h. Miscellaneous Practice Expense Issues

Hyperbaric Oxygen Services

We proposed to assign, on an interim basis, the following practice expense inputs to CPT code 99183, *Physician attendance and supervision of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, per session, when performed in the office setting*:

Staff: Respiratory Therapist for 135 minutes (for a 2 hour treatment);
Supplies: Minimum Visit Supply Package, 180 liters of oxygen, 187 cubic feet of air; *Equipment*: Hyperbaric chamber.

Comment: A freestanding hyperbaric oxygen center expressed appreciation that we priced this procedure in the non-facility setting. The commenter also

requested that we add certain staff time and some supplies to the practice expense inputs assigned to this service.

The additional supplies requested include disinfectant for cleaning the hyperbaric chamber after each patient, two otoscope covers to check patients' ears pre and post treatment, and a denture cup and urinal. An additional 24 minutes of clinical staff time (using the standard staff blend) was also requested for preparing the room, greeting and gowning the patient, patient education, taking vital signs before and after treatment, positioning the patient and cleaning the room.

Response: We believe that the request for the above additional practice expense inputs is reasonable. Currently,

we have assigned clinical staff time only for assisting during the procedure itself; additional time was calculated using the times used by the PEAC for the tasks listed. Therefore, we are adding these inputs to those already assigned to the hyperbaric oxygen service. We have also requesting that the PEAC review these inputs at a future meeting and the RUC has stated that the PEAC will be reviewing this CPT code at the January or March 2004 meeting.

Comment: A commenter from another freestanding hyperbaric center expressed concern that the proposed physician fee schedule payment for CPT 99183 is approximately 25 percent of the payment in the hospital setting. The commenter lists additional costs that