

patients as part of our overall focus on quality.

Final Decision—We will create the following G Codes to be used for ESRD patients other than home dialysis, based on the age of the patient and number of visits:

G0308—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients under 2 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 4 or more face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0309—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients under 2 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 2 or 3 face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0310—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients under 2 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 1 face-to-face physician visit per month.

G0311—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients between 2 and 11 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 4 or more face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0312—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients between 2 and 11 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 2 or 3 face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0313—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients between 2 and 11 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 1 face-to-face physician visit per month.

G0314—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients between 12 and 19 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 4 or more face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0315—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the

course of treatment, for patients between 12 and 19 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 2 or 3 face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0316—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients between 12 and 19 years of age to include monitoring for the adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents; with 1 face-to-face physician visit per month.

G0317—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients 20 years of age and over; with 4 or more face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0318—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients 20 years of age and over; with 2 or 3 face-to-face physician visits per month.

G0319—End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services during the course of treatment, for patients 20 years of age and over; with 1 face-to-face physician visit per month.

In addition we have created the following G codes for home dialysis patients:

G0320—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis patients per full month; for patients under two years of age to include monitoring for adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents.

G0321—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis patients per full month; for patients two to eleven years of age to include monitoring for adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents.

G0322—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis patients per full month; for patients twelve to nineteen years of age to include monitoring for adequacy of nutrition, assessment of growth and development, and counseling of parents.

G0323—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis patients per full month; for patients twenty years of age and older.

G0324—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis (less than full month), per day; for patients under two years of age.

G0325—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis (less than full month), per day; for patients between two and eleven years of age.

G0326—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis (less than full month), per day; for patients between twelve and nineteen years of age.

G0327—End stage renal disease (ESRD) related services for home dialysis (less than full month), per day; for patients twenty years of age and over.

6. Miscellaneous Coding Issues

Bioimpedance

Comment: We received several comments concerning the pricing of CPT code 93701, electrical bioimpedance. One commenter, a carrier medical director, requested that this service be considered a technical component service as there is no physician work (professional component) required to produce the results. The commenter referenced the RUC recommendation of 0.00 work that was not accepted by CMS in November 2001. Other commenters stated that pricing of this service should be revisited and the American College of Cardiology recommended work component of 0.25 RVUs be accepted. Commenters also questioned the valuation of the practice expense component, particularly in light of the escalating costs associated with this service.

Response: In next year's final rule we will be accepting recommendations for codes to be considered under the five-year review of work that will occur in 2005. The commenters will be able to respond to that solicitation, and submit this CPT code, as well as any other services they believe need to be reviewed to ensure they are appropriately valued. We are currently in the process of reviewing and obtaining updated pricing for equipment contained in the practice expense data files and proposed changes to pricing for equipment will be included in next year's proposed rule. We would suggest that the commenters review this information when published to ensure that the cost of the equipment is accurately reflected in the database.

Ablation Procedures

Comment: One commenter, a manufacturer, suggested that the work RVUs of certain codes for the ablation of liver tumors (CPT codes 47380, 47370 and 47382) appeared to be undervalued.

Response: As discussed in the previous response, in next year's final rule we will be accepting recommendations for codes to be considered under the five-year review of work that will occur in 2005. The