

non-imaging nuclear medicine procedures with resource use more similar to the procedures in APC 0389.

- Combine APCs 0390, 0391, and 0392 to create two new APCs composed of thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal systems. They suggest that the codes should be reassigned to two levels of endocrine imaging based on the number of sessions and radiopharmaceuticals used in the procedure. The titles suggested for the new APCs are "Endocrine Level I" and "Endocrine Level II."

- Combine proposed APCs 0407 and 0408 into one APC because hospital claims data do not reflect any logical division between the two proposed APCs. Further, they request that all of the nuclear medicine therapy codes in the new APC should be paid separately since they know of no nuclear medicine therapeutic radiopharmaceutical that has costs below the proposed \$150 threshold for packaging.

- Collapse and redistribute code assignments in APCs 0404 and 0405 to create two new APCs for Level I and Level II Renal and Genitourinary Studies. They recommended assigning only one code, 78709, Kidney imaging, multiple studies, with and without pharmaceutical intervention, to the Level II APC.

*Response:* After careful review of the recommendations, with one exception, we concur with the commenters that their recommended modifications to the proposed APC classifications improve clinical homogeneity and payment equity. The shifts in median cost that result from the adjustments are minor in most cases and overall, the increased cost is not significant.

The one exception to our agreement with the commenters' recommendation is regarding the assignment of 78708, Kidney imaging with vascular flow and function, single study. Commenters recommended that it be assigned to APC 0404. We believe that it is more appropriately assigned to APC 0405 based on both clinical and resource use considerations.

Although we do not disagree with the commenters' suggestions, we also will not assign the new code 78804, pre-treatment planning, non-Hodgkins to the APC suggested by the commenters. Instead, we will assign it to new technology APC 1508. A detailed discussion of this assignment and other issues related to Zevalin is below in section VI.B.

Thus, we will finalize the nuclear medicine APCs as shown below.

#### APC 0376: CARDIAC IMAGING LEVEL II

HCPCS	Description
78473 .....	Gated heart, multiple.
78483 .....	Heart first pass, multiple.

#### APC 0377: CARDIAC IMAGING LEVEL III

HCPCS	Description
78461 .....	Heart muscle blood, multiple.
78465 .....	Heart image (3D), multiple.

#### APC 0378: PULMONARY IMAGING LEVEL II

HCPCS	Description
78584 .....	Lung V/Q image gas, single breath.
78585 .....	Lung V/Q imaging gas.
78588 .....	Lung V/Q imaging aerosol.
78596 .....	Lung differential function.

#### APC 0389: NON-IMAGING NUCLEAR MEDICINE

HCPCS	Description
78000 .....	Thyroid, single uptake.
78001 .....	Thyroid, multiple uptakes.
78003 .....	Thyroid suppress/stimuli.
78190 .....	Platelet survival, kinetics.
78191 .....	Platelet survival.
78270 .....	Vitamin B-12 absorption exam.
78271 .....	Vitamin B-12 absorp. exam, intrin. Fac.
78272 .....	Vitamin B-12 absorp, combined.
78725 .....	Kidney function study.

#### APC 0390: ENDOCRINE LEVEL I

HCPCS	Description
78006 .....	Thyroid imaging with uptake.
78010 .....	Thyroid imaging.
78011 .....	Thyroid imaging with flow.
78099 .....	Endocrine nuclear procedure.

#### APC 0391: ENDOCRINE LEVEL II

HCPCS	Description
78007 .....	Thyroid image, mult uptakes.
78070 .....	Parathyroid nuclear imaging.
78075 .....	Adrenal nuclear imaging.

#### APC 0393: RED CELL/PLASMA STUDIES

HCPCS	Description
78110 .....	Plasma volume, single.
78111 .....	Plasma volume, multiple.
78120 .....	Red cell mass, single.
78121 .....	Red cell mass, multiple.
78122 .....	Blood volume.
78130 .....	Red cell survival study.
78135 .....	Red cell survival kinetics.
78140 .....	Red cell sequestration.
78160 .....	Plasma iron turnover.
78162 .....	Radioiron absorption exam.
78170 .....	Red cell iron utilization.
78172 .....	Total body iron estimation.

#### APC 0394: HEPATOBIILIARY IMAGING

HCPCS	Description
78201 .....	Liver imaging.
78202 .....	Liver imaging with flow.
78205 .....	Liver imaging (3D).
78206 .....	Liver image (3D) with flow.
78215 .....	Liver and spleen imaging.
78216 .....	Liver & spleen image/flow.
78220 .....	Liver function study.
78223 .....	Hepatobiliary imaging.

#### APC 0395: GASTROINTESTINAL IMAGING

HCPCS	Description
78230 .....	Salivary gland imaging.
78231 .....	Serial salivary imaging.
78232 .....	Salivary gland function exam.
78258 .....	Esophageal motility study.
78261 .....	Gastric mucosa imaging.
78262 .....	Gastroesophageal reflux exam.
78264 .....	Gastric emptying study.
78278 .....	Acute GI blood loss imaging.
78282 .....	GI protein loss exam.
78290 .....	Meckel's divert exam.
78291 .....	Leveen/shunt patency exam.
78299 .....	GI nuclear procedure.

#### APC 0396: BONE IMAGING

HCPCS	Description
78300 .....	Bone imaging, limited area.
78305 .....	Bone imaging, multiple areas.
78306 .....	Bone imaging, whole body.
78315 .....	Bone imaging, 3 phase.
78320 .....	Bone imaging (3D).
78399 .....	Musculoskeletal nuclear exam.

#### APC 0397: VASCULAR IMAGING

HCPCS	Description
78445 .....	Venous thrombosis study.
78455 .....	Venous thrombosis study.