

THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS) UPDATE

2022 Final Rules for EP Related Services

CMS has issued final rules for the 2022 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System, Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System and the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The final rules include the following catheter ablation related codes and payment.



2022 Hospital IPPS and OPSS Payment:

- Inpatient (DRG) and Outpatient (APC) for cardiac ablation procedures continues growth trend

CY 2022 Hospital Outpatient Payment

APC	SHORT DESCRIPTION	NATIONAL AVERAGE PAYMENT		
		2021 ¹	2022 ²	% CHANGE
5213	Level 3 Electrophysiologic Procedures	\$21,464	\$21,916	+2.1%

FY 2022 Hospital Inpatient Payment

MS-DRG	SHORT DESCRIPTION	NATIONAL AVERAGE PAYMENT		
		2021 ³	2022 ⁴	% CHANGE
273	Percutaneous and Other Intracardiac Procedures with MCC	\$24,664	\$25,234	+2.3%
274	Percutaneous and Other Intracardiac Procedures without MCC	\$21,117	\$21,673	+2.6%

*MCC: major complications or comorbidities.



2022 Physician Fee Schedule includes:

- Two cardiac ablation codes (93653 & 93656) with revisions of code descriptors to incorporate related services
- Reduced Work Relative Value Units (Work RVU) for EP ablation

CY 2022 EP Services and Work RVUs

CPT® CODE	SHORT DESCRIPTION	WORK RELATIVE VALUE UNITS		
		2021 ⁵	2022 ⁶	% CHANGE
93653	Comprehensive EP study + SVT ablation + 3D mapping + left atrial pacing	22.08*	14.75	-33.2%
93654	Comprehensive EP study + LA pacing & recording + LV pacing & recording + 3D mapping + VT ablation	19.75	19.75	0%
+93655	Ablation of a discrete mechanism of arrhythmia which is distinct from the primary ablated mechanism	7.50	5.50	-26.7%
93656	Comprehensive EP study + AFib ablation by PVI + transeptal puncture + left atrial pacing and recording + 3D mapping + intracardiac echo (ICE)	26.44 [†]	19.77	-25.2%
+93657	Additional linear or focal ablation of left or right atrium for AFib remaining after PVI	7.50	5.50	-26.7%

* 2021 includes 93613 + 93621; † 2021 includes 93613 + 93662

The Resource Based Relative Value Scale



Medicare Conversion Factor
2022 = \$34.6062
(Released 12/15/2021)

Real World AF Ablation Coding Examples

AF Ablation: PVI Only

CPT® CODE	SHORT DESCRIPTION	2021		2022	
		WORK RVUs	TOTAL RVUs	WORK RVUs	TOTAL RVUs
93656	Comprehensive EP study + AFib ablation by PVI + transseptal puncture + left atrial pacing and recording + 3D mapping + intracardiac echo (ICE)	26.44 [†]	44.79 [†]	19.77	32.86
+93623-26	Programmed stimulation with IV drug [‡]	0.98	3.72	0.98	3.01
TOTALS		27.42	48.51	20.75 (-24% vs 2021)	35.87 (-26% vs 2021)

AF Ablation: Extended Atrial Fibrillation Ablation and Atrial Flutter Ablation

CPT® CODE	SHORT DESCRIPTION	2021		2022	
		WORK RVUs	TOTAL RVUs	WORK RVUs	TOTAL RVUs
93656	Comprehensive EP study + AFib ablation by PVI + transseptal puncture + left atrial pacing and recording + 3D mapping + intracardiac echo (ICE)	26.44 [†]	44.79 [†]	19.77	32.86
+93623-26	Programmed stimulation with IV drug [‡]	0.98	3.72	0.98	3.01
+93655	Ablation of a discrete mechanism of arrhythmia	7.50	12.44	5.5	9.15
+93657	Additional linear or focal atrial ablation for AF	7.50	12.43	5.5	9.14
TOTALS		42.42	73.38	31.75 (-25% vs 2021)	54.16 (-26% vs 2021)

Complex PsAF Ablation

CPT® CODE	SHORT DESCRIPTION	2021		2022	
		WORK RVUs	TOTAL RVUs	WORK RVUs	TOTAL RVUs
93656	Comprehensive EP study + AFib ablation by PVI + transseptal puncture + left atrial pacing and recording + 3D mapping + intracardiac echo (ICE)	26.44 [†]	44.79 [†]	19.77	32.86
+93623-26	Programmed stimulation with IV drug [‡]	0.98	3.72	0.98	3.01
+93655	Ablation of a discrete mechanism of arrhythmia	7.50	12.44	5.5	9.15
+93655	Ablation of a discrete mechanism of arrhythmia	7.50	12.44	5.5	9.15
+93657	Additional linear or focal atrial ablation for AF	7.50	12.43	5.5	9.14
+93657	Additional linear or focal atrial ablation for AF	7.50	12.43	5.5	9.14
TOTALS		57.42	98.25	42.75 (-26% vs 2021)	72.45 (-26% vs 2021)

[†] Per the CCI, although 93623 may be reported for IV drug infusion for diagnostic programmed stimulation and pacing, it should not be reported for injections of a drug with stimulation and pacing following an intracardiac ablation procedure to confirm the adequacy of the ablation.

**For additional questions or assistance contact Biosense Webster, Inc Reimbursement Support Services
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¹ CMS-1736-FC Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System CY 2021 Payment Rates. Issued: 12/4/2020

² CMS-1753-FC Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System CY 2022 Final Rule. Issued: 11/2/2021

³ CMS-1735-F Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Fiscal Year 2021 Rates. Issued: 9/2/2020

⁴ CMS-1716-F Medicare: Fiscal Year 2022 Final Inpatient and Long-term Care Hospital policy and Payment Changes. Issued: 8/13/2021

⁵ CMS-1734-F Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) CY 2021 Payment Rates. Issued: 12/2/2020

⁶ CMS-1751-F Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: CY 2022 Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies Final Rule. 11/2/2021

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