

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Calculating Medicare Payments From RVUs and GPCIs

By definition, geographic practice cost indices (GPCIs) differ from region to region. Here is an example of how a single-view chest x-ray would be calculated in Kentucky.

Procedure: A chest x-ray (71010-26), performed in a facility (hospital-based); transitional for 2001 (see chart)

To calculate the actual fee schedule amount for a single view of the chest, multiple the GPCI-corrected total RVU by the national conversion factor of \$38.2581. This reveals that the anticipated Medicare payment would equal \$9.33 in 2001.

The HCFA file (see insert for link) contains a complete listing of the 2001 GPCIs by Medicare carrier and locality.

