

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Where are RVUs?

**Question:** You have mentioned a book about RVUs in the past couple of newsletters. What is it, and where can I get a copy?

Delaware Subscriber

**Answer:** The abbreviation RVU stands for relative value unit, which is the value that Medicare assigns to a procedure code. The RVU for a procedure code, multiplied by the Medicare conversion factor (\$38.2581 for 2001), results in the unadjusted payment amount for the procedure. Geographic adjustments are then made to arrive at a final payment.

The list of RVUs for CPT procedure codes is contained in the Medicare Physicians Fee Schedule Database, which is available online at [www.hcfa.gov/stats/carrpuf.htm](http://www.hcfa.gov/stats/carrpuf.htm).

If you are a subscriber to the Federal Register, there is also a copy of the 2001 Physicians Fee Schedule in the Nov. 1, 2000, edition.