

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### READER QUESTIONS: Get Ready for Medicare's Strict ABPM Coverage

**Question:** My internist has begun providing 24-hour blood pressure monitoring. How should I report this service?

Texas Subscriber

**Answer:** To receive Medicare reimbursement for ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM), you should report one of the following codes:

1. 93784 - Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, utilizing a system such as magnetic tape and/or computer disk, for 24 hours or longer; including recording, scanning analysis, interpretation and report
2. 93786 - ... recording only
3. 93788 - ... scanning analysis with report
4. 93790 - ... physician review with interpretation and report.

Medicare will accept these codes only when the physician uses ABPM to test for white-coat hypertension. In this case, your primary ICD-9 code should be 796.2 (Elevated blood pressure reading without diagnosis of hypertension).

Private carriers may have more lenient guidelines, so check with your commercial insurers regarding acceptable diagnosis codes.