

**Submitter :** Ms. Lora Anderson  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Ms. Maggie Ayers  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#243

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Ms. Heather Spaeth  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#244

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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**Submitter :** Ms. Christine Madson  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#245

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Mr. Brian Ticks  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#246

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Ms. Jillayne Skaug  
Organization : MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
Category : Health Care Provider/Association

Date: 01/08/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#247

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Ms. Calista Peterson  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#248

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Ms. Stacy Luoto  
Organization : MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
Category : Health Care Provider/Association

Date: 01/08/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1.800.743-3951.

**Submitter :** Dr. Robert Long  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/08/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#250

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Ms. Helga Borris  
Organization : Ms. Helga Borris  
Category : Individual

Date: 01/08/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a patient who relies on interventional pain management physicians for my care. I am writing to you because of my grave concern for the future of patient access to this type of care. Based on my knowledge of the planned reduction in reimbursement, it is my firmly held belief that, unless Congress takes action soon, seniors will lose access to interventional pain management. If past actions are any guide, it is certain that Medicaid and third party payors will follow Medicare, cutting their reimbursement for these valuable services as well.

As a concerned patient, I write urging you to take steps to stop the pending physician reimbursement cuts and the devastating ASC cuts for interventional pain management procedures. I am extremely disappointed that Congress does not appear to be willing to take action prior to the holiday recess. This inaction could very well cause seniors to lose access to interventional pain management.

I understand that the physician payment fix should be for at least two years with a change in the law rather than yearly fix which will accumulate the cuts in the third year to 20% at one time. I also support modest cuts for Medicare Advantage Plan; however, we do not support complete elimination of Medicare Advantage Plans. This is especially true in Illinois as malpractice costs are rising for interventional pain management physicians. Based on these statistics it is obvious that physicians will have an extremely difficult time continuing to practice and offer the care that they are currently.

A second issue of concern relates to ambulatory surgery center payment cuts for interventional pain management procedures. This is one of the most effective locations for these procedures to be performed, along with physician offices. Since the Government has decided to reduce payments to offices and ASCs, we will be forced to return to the hospital setting. This is, without a doubt, a less effective, more inefficient, and more expensive setting. It appears to be criminal to punish both of the most effective interventional pain management settings, namely the offices, and ASCs, with draconian cuts. If this is allowed to stand, it will significantly affect our access to these valuable services which have significantly improved our quality of life.

Although we appreciate the bills introduced by Honorable Mike Crapo (R-ID) in the Senate and Honorable Kendrick Meek (D-17th FI) and Wally Herger (R-2nd CA) in the House; these unfortunately will not fix the ASC issue for interventional pain management. They also would be extremely expensive and consequently, we request a temporary reprieve for interventional procedures performed in ASCs by a carve-out for 9 procedures which will cost \$8 million in the year 2008 and a total of \$34 million by 2010.

Please act immediately, as these issues are extremely important to the American public, namely your voters. I m very much interested in hearing your response and hoping for your support on these important issues.

Once again, thank you for all your help.  
For more information visit [www.asipp.org](http://www.asipp.org)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitter :** Ms. Jona Annoni  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/09/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

# 252

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Mr. James Anway  
Organization : MAPS Medical Pain Clinic  
Category : Health Care Provider/Association

Date: 01/09/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Ms. Kelly Jackson  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/09/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#254

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Mrs. Mary Bricko  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinic  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/10/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#255

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

**Submitter :** Ms. Jane Olinger  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinic  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/10/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**HCPCS codes**

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#256

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Ms. Jari Thompson  
Organization : MAPS Medical Pain Clinics  
Category : Health Care Provider/Association

Date: 01/10/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#257

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Dr. Robert Ycaza  
Organization : Bradenton Pain and Wellness Center  
Category : Physician

Date: 01/10/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

December 18, 2007

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

Dear Mr. Weems:

As a concerned interventional pain management physician I would like to comment on multiple disparities which exist between ASC setting and HOPD setting. These disparities and the CMSs new proposals and classifications will hinder patient access.

I am concerned about status indicator for CPT Codes 72285 and 72295 and non-payable issue which is related to discography. CMS pays separately for radiology portion of discography when it is performed independently in the HOPD setting, however it does not pay separately for the very same service when it is performed independently in the ASC setting. It was our understanding that in spite of significant cuts for interventional pain management the whole purpose was to apply the standards uniformly but it does not seem so. Discography procedures have two components: an injection portion that is reported by either CPT Code 62290 (Injection procedure for discography, in lumbar spine) or CPT Cod 62291 (Injection procedure for discography in cervical or thoracic spine), and a radiology portion that is reported by either CPT Code 72285 (discography interpretation and supervision in cervical spine) or CPT Code 72295 (discography interpretation and supervision in lumbar spine).

I believe that discography should be a separately payable service in the ASC as it is not treated as a surgical procedure eligible for separate payment under the payment system. This payment policy fails to recognize inequality between multiple settings and importance of these being done in an ASC setting.

The second issue relates to the update to the conversion factor while ASCs are facing losses, hospitals will still have an upper hand with a better update factor. This should be changed where both update factors are the same.

In addition, CMS should delay implementing the payment cap for office-based procedures. The present formula appears to be arbitrary.

To avoid exponential increases in procedures performed in all settings specifically in-office settings, CMS should establish that these procedures should be performed by only well-trained qualified physicians and in accredited office settings, thus creating an accreditation standard for offices to perform interventional procedures. This philosophy may be applied to other settings to simply reduce the overuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Rule.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Ycaza, M.D.  
2001 Manatee Avenue East  
Bradenton, Fl 34208

**Submitter :** Ms. Colleen Mack  
**Organization :** MAPS Medical Pain Clinic  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association

**Date:** 01/10/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments:**

HCPCS codes

HCPCS codes

CMS-1392-FC

#259

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Please direct your questions or comments to 1 800 743-3951.

Submitter : Dr. Antonio Mesa

Date: 01/11/2008

Organization : Interventional Neurology Consultants, P.A.

Category : Physician

Issue Areas/Comments

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

December 18, 2007

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

Dear Mr. Weems:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Rule.

Sincerely,  
Antonio Mesa, D.O.  
Interventional Neurology Consultants, P.A.  
7800 SW 87th Avenue Suite B250  
Miami, FL 33173

Submitter : Mr. Vishal Lal  
Organization : Advanced Pain Management  
Category : Ambulatory Surgical Center

Date: 01/11/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Attachment

CMS-1392-FC-261-Attach-1.TXT

#261

January 11, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

Dear Mr. Weems:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Rule.

Sincerely,

**Vishal Lal**  
**Advanced Pain Management**  
**4131 W Loomis Road**  
**Suite 300**  
**Greenfield, WI 53221**

Submitter : Dr. Marco Araujo  
Organization : Advanced Pain Management  
Category : Ambulatory Surgical Center

Date: 01/11/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

attachment

CMS-1392-FC-262-Attach-1.DOC

#262

January 11, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

Dear Mr. Weems:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Rule.

Sincerely,

**Dr Marco Araujo**  
**4131 W Loomis Road**  
**Suite 300**  
**Greenfield, WI 53221**

**Submitter :** Dr. Luciana Berceanu  
**Organization :** Advanced Pain Management  
**Category :** Ambulatory Surgical Center

**Date:** 01/11/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

Attachment

CMS-1392-FC-263-Attach-1.DOC

#263

January 11, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Rule.

Sincerely,

**Dr Luciana Berceanu**  
**4131 W Loomis Road**  
**Suite 300**  
**Greenfield, WI 53221**

Submitter : Dr. Roman Berezovski  
Organization : Advanced Pain Management  
Category : Ambulatory Surgical Center

Date: 01/11/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Attachement

CMS-1392-FC-264-Attach-1.DOC

#264

January 11, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

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Sincerely,

**Dr Roman Berezovksi**  
**4131 W Loomis Road**  
**Suite 300**  
**Greenfield, WI 53221**

Submitter : Dr. Yogendra Bharat  
Organization : Advanced Pain Management  
Category : Ambulatory Surgical Center

Date: 01/11/2008

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Attachement

CMS-1392-FC-265-Attach-1.DOC

#265

January 11, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: MS-1392-FC

Dear Mr. Weems:

As a concerned interventional pain management physician I would like to comment on multiple disparities which exist between ASC setting and HOPD setting. These disparities and the CMSs new proposals and classifications will hinder patient access:

I am concerned about status indicator for CPT Codes 72285 and 72295 and non-payable issue which is related to discography. CMS pays separately for radiology portion of discography when it is performed independently in the HOPD setting, however it does not pay separately for the very same service when it is performed independently in the ASC setting. It was our understanding that in spite of significant cuts for interventional pain management the whole purpose was to apply the standards uniformly but it does not seem so. Discography procedures have two components: an injection portion that is reported by either CPT Code 62290 (Injection procedure for discography, in lumbar spine) or CPT Cod 62291 (Injection procedure for discography in cervical or thoracic spine), and a radiology portion that is reported by either CPT C ode 722 85 ( discography i nterpretation a nd supervision i n c ervical spine) o r CPT C ode 72295 (discography interpretation and supervision in lumbar spine).

I believe that discography should be a separately payable service in the ASC as it is not treated as a surgical procedure eligible for separate payment under the payment system. This payment policy fails to recognize inequality between multiple settings and importance of these being done in an ASC setting.

The second issue relates to the update to the conversion factor while ASCs are facing losses, hospitals will still have an upper hand with a better update factor. This should be changed where both update factors are the same.

In addition, CMS should delay implementing the payment cap for office-based procedures. The present formula appears to be arbitrary.

To avoid exponential increases in procedures performed in all settings specifically in-office settings, CMS should establish that these procedures should be performed by only well-trained qualified physicians and in accredited office settings, thus creating an accreditation standard for offices to perform interventional procedures. This philosophy may be applied to other settings to simply reduce the overuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Rule.

Sincerely,

**Dr Yogendra Bharat**  
**4131 W Loomis Road**  
**Suite 300**  
**Greenfield, WI 53221**

**Submitter :** Dr. David Bryce  
**Organization :** Advanced Pain Management  
**Category :** Ambulatory Surgical Center

**Date:** 01/11/2008

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

Attachement

CMS-1392-FC-266-Attach-1.DOC

#266

January 11, 2008

Mr. Kerry Weems  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: MS-1392-FC  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

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