

Physician Time File Used To Create the Resource-Based Practice Expense Relative Value Units For Calendar Year 2005 (Final Rule 11/2004)

Contents:

This file contains physician or clinical staff times used to create practice expense relative value units for more than 7,000 different procedure codes that will be paid by Medicare using the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) in 2005.

Section 121 of the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 required the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to replace the existing charge-based practice expense relative value units for all Medicare Physician Fee Schedule services with new resource-based ones. CMS uses the time values included in this file as part of this process. The June 5, 1998 Federal Register includes a detailed explanation of how the time values included in this file are used to create practice expense relative value units. For updates to the general methodology, see Federal Register notices published on November 2, 1998, November 2, 1999 and November 1, 2000, November 1, 2001, December 31, 2002, November 5, 2003 and January 7, 2004.

File Organization:

Prior to the creation of the file, the HCPCS procedure code and modifier were concatenated. The file contains one record for each unique combination of procedure code and modifier and is sorted according to the concatenated HCPCS/Modifier variable.

Data Set Name:

2005 Final Rule Physician-Staff Times.EXE is a self-extracting compressed file which, when decompressed, will contain two files:

- (1) 2005 Final Rule Physician-Staff Times.DOC (in Word (.doc) format) contains the file record layout and file documentation;
- (2) 2005 Physician Final Rule Time File.MDB contains the time values associated with each procedure code in a Microsoft Access database.

Data Elements:

HCPCSMOD	Procedure Code/Modifier Combination (Modifier=26, TC or blank)
NPWP	This variable indicates whether a code is included in the non-physician work pool (value equals “Y”), the code has no physician work RVU but has been removed from the non-physician work pool (value equals “T”) or the service has a physician work RVU (value is blank).
Staff Time	There is only a value for this variable if the code has no physician work relative value unit and is included in the non-physician work pool. The value represents the total staff time value for the code from the clinical staff time files used in the practice expense methodology.
Pre-time	Pre-service physician time.
Intra-time	Intra-service physician time.
Post-time	Post-service physician time.
Total Time	Total physician time.

NOTE:

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