

Medicare: IMRT Simulations

Coding Job Aid

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published specific guidelines relating to services that are considered to be included in IMRT computer planning. The following summary of current CMS publications is not intended to be used as consulting advice for any individual healthcare provider or organization; providers should verify all billing requirements with their compliance department.

Freestanding Radiation Treatment Center & Physicians (Bill on CMS1500 Claim Form)

A reference in the National Correct Coding Policy Manual, Chapter 9, is effective **January 1, 2014** and applies to physician professional services and freestanding centers. The following services are included when performed as part of IMRT planning for these providers:

Codes	Categories
77280	Simple simulation (including verification simulations)
77285	Intermediate simulation
77290	Complex simulation
77295	Other computer plans were not separately billed when part of IMRT computer plan.

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html?redirect=/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/>

Outpatient Hospital (Bills on UB04 Claim Form)

Based on the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 4, and effective **January 1, 2008**, the following services are included in IMRT planning when performed as part of plan development:

Codes	Categories
77014	A treatment planning CT is not billed with any simulation, effective January 1, 2014.
77280-77290	Simulations performed prior to plan development are not separately billed.
77295, 77306, 77307, 77321	Other computer plans are not separately billed when part of IMRT computer plan.
77331	Special dosimetry is not billed when performed as part of IMRT plan quality assurance.
77370	Image fusion, plan QA or other physics analysis when part of IMRT plan development.

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1445CP.pdf>

IMRT Verification Simulations

Effective **January 1, 2017** CMS added the following to the National Correct Coding Policy Manual:

CPT® codes 77280-77290 (simulation-aided field settings) should not be reported for verification of the treatment field during a course of intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) treatment.

While not included as part of the planning process, this statement indicates that there will be no charge for verification simulations from the hospital, freestanding treatment center or physician during the course of IMRT treatment to a Medicare patient.