



Medicare Nuclear Medicine Reimbursement Information 2024

HOPPS – Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System

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CPT® – Current Procedural Terminology

- American Medical Association’s five-digit numeric codes used to report medical procedures and services.

HCPCS - Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System

- Level I HCPCS codes American Medical Association’s Current Procedural Terminology (CPT).
- Level II HCPCS codes alphanumeric five-digit codes primarily to identify contrast agents, radiopharmaceuticals, supplies and devices.

Q-codes

- Temporary codes created by Medicare to identify items not assigned a CPT code. Many drugs, supplies and biologicals are assigned Q codes.

NDC codes – National Drug Code

- A unique numeric code to identify drugs. The first segment of numbers identifies the labeler or manufacturer, the second segment identifies the product, and the third identifies the package.

Questions regarding reimbursement for Lantheus products?

Email: reimbursement@lantheus.com

Three Basic Components of Reimbursement: Coding, Coverage and Payment.

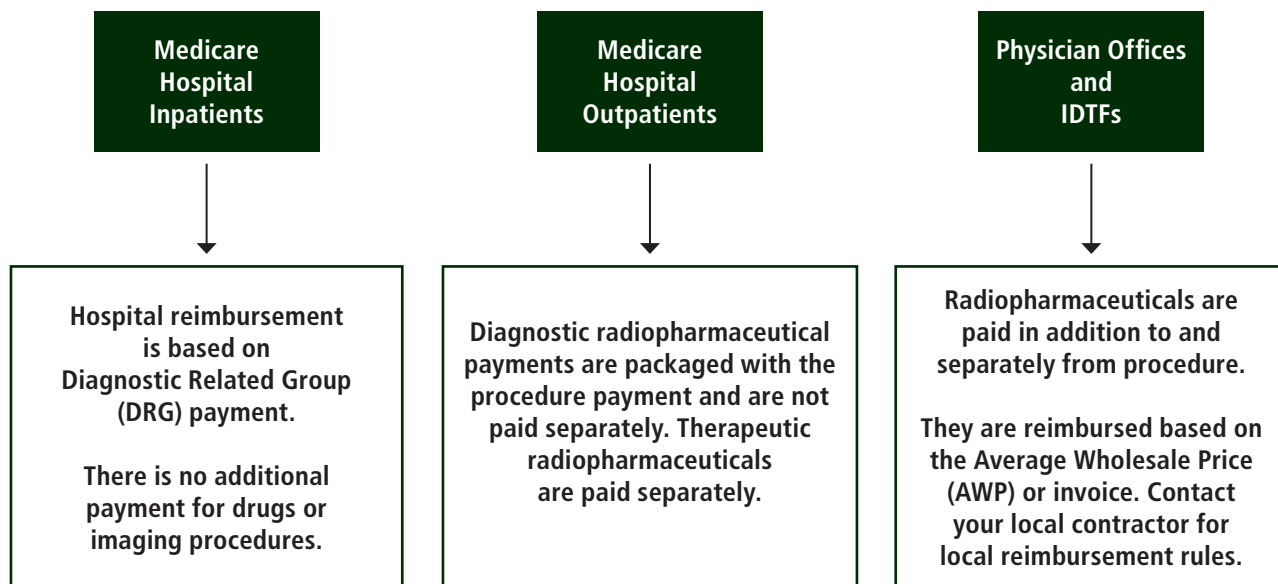
1. **Coding:** There must be a CPT code or HCPCS code that accurately describes the service performed and/or the drugs provided.
2. **Coverage:** The existence of CPT and/or HCPCS codes used to report the services performed or items furnished does not guarantee coverage.

Medicare only covers a procedure, drug or supply when it is medically necessary. Providers should obtain and follow the policies and guidelines published by Medicare in the Local and National Coverage Determinations.

3. **Payment:** If the proper codes exist and there is coverage established, Medicare must set a payment amount for the drugs, supplies and / or procedures in order for providers to receive payment. Most payment amounts are determined by CMS nationally. There are differences in procedure payment amounts from region to region to reflect geographic differences in provider costs.

Documentation: When radiopharmaceuticals or contrast agents are reported, providers must document in the medical record the name of the drug and the amount administered.

Lantheus cannot guarantee coverage or payment for products or procedures. Payer policies can vary widely. For more specific information, contact the payer directly in order to obtain up to date coverage, coding and payment information



This information is provided as a courtesy for informational purposes only and is not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, reimbursement or billing advice.

*Effective July 1, 2023, for Medicare Part B drugs report JW/JZ modifier on separately payable Medicare claims for drugs from single use containers

2024 Medicare Reimbursement for Nuclear Medicine Non-HEU Derived Tc-99m for Medicare Hospital Outpatients^{1,2}

For 2023, CMS will continue the \$10 add-on payment for non-HEU derived Tc-99m for hospital outpatients. CMS did finalize that this \$10 add-on will also continue in 2024 and 2025 but will end after December 31, 2025.

The United States government has established an agenda to eliminate domestic reliance on Tc-99m derived from nuclear reactors using Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU). CMS recognizes that Tc-99m derived from a non-HEU source may have a higher cost. In response, CMS will reimburse providers \$10 per non-HEU derived Tc-99m dose in the hospital outpatient setting in addition to the payment for the imaging procedure.

Under this policy, hospitals report HCPCS code Q9969 (Tc-99m from non-highly enriched uranium source, full cost recovery add-on, per study dose) once per dose along with any diagnostic scan or scans furnished using Tc-99m as long as the Tc-99m doses used can be certified by the hospital to be at least 95 percent derived from non-HEU sources.

1. CMS created HCPCS code Q9969 to report non-HEU Tc-99m doses.

HCPCS Descriptor

*Q9969 Tc-99m from non-highly enriched uranium source,
full cost recovery add-on, per study dose*

2. CMS will reimburse \$10 per dose for Q9969 in addition to the imaging procedure.
3. Hospital reports token \$1 charge per dose for Q9969.

Hospitals do not indicate a dose is from a non-HEU source on their claim form. They simply report HCPCS Q9969 for each non-HEU dose. If asked, a hospital has three options to document a dose was derived from a non-HEU source².

1. Produce invoices, patient dose labels or tracking sheets that indicate that a dose was produced from non-HEU sources.
2. Produce documentation that an entire batch of Tc-99m doses were derived from a non-HEU source for a specified period of time that a single non-HEU generator was in use or manufacturer attestation that a generator is non-HEU generator.
3. If the manufacturer has labeled a generator or a dose attesting to it being derived from a non-HEU source.

If a hospital has any questions about whether they are receiving Tc-99m derived from a non-HEU source, they should contact their radiopharmacy or the generator manufacturer.

For more information, please see CY 2024 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule or contact your local radiopharmacy or your Tc-99m generator manufacturer.

Lantheus SPECT Products — Payment Code Descriptors

For 2024, CMS continues to package the payment for diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals, the exercise stress test, CPT 93017, and all pharmacologic stress agents with the SPECT Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI) procedure, CPT 78452, into one single packaged payment.

If a non-HEU derived Tc-99m dose is used, providers can receive a separate add on payment of \$10 per dose by reporting HCPCS code Q9969.

Packaged Components of HOPPS SPECT Multiple Myocardial Perfusion CPT 78452

Descriptor
78452 SPECT MPI Multiple
93017 Exercise test (packaged with 78452)
Jxxx Pharmacologic stress agent (packaged with 78452)
A9500 Tc-99m sestamibi (packaged with 78452)
Q9969 non-HEU source Tc-99m per dose

Selected 2024 Payment Code Descriptors

CPT Code	Descriptor	APC
78071	Parathyroid planar imaging (including subtraction, when performed); with tomographic (SPECT)	5591
78582	Pulmonary ventilation (e.g. aerosol or gas) and perfusion imaging	5592
78803	Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (SPECT), single area single day	5593

Lantheus 2024 HCPCS and NDC Information

Product	HCPCS	NDC codes
Cardiolite® Kit for the Preparation of Technetium Tc-99m Sestamibi for Injection	A9500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC 11994-001-20 (20 vials one box) • NDC 11994-001-55 (5 vials one box)
Kit for the Preparation of Technetium Tc-99m Sestamibi for Injection	A9500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC 11994-003-20 (20 vials one box)
NEUROLITE® Kit for the Preparation of Technetium Tc-99m Bicisate for Injection	A9557	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC 11994-006-02 (2 kits one package)
Xenon Xe-133 Gas	A9558	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC 11994-127-11 (one 10 mCi vial) • NDC 11994-127-15 (five 10 mCi vials) • NDC 11994-127-21 (one 20 mCi vial) • NDC 11994-127-25 (five 20 mCi vials)
Tc-99m from non-highly enriched uranium source, full cost recovery add-on per study dose	Q9969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid \$10 per dose for Tc-99m doses derived from ≥ 95% non-HEU for HOPPS in addition to APC payment for imaging procedure

Appropriate Use Criteria for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services

The CMS Appropriate Use Criteria program has been paused for reevaluation.

The following information was posted on the CMS website as of 11/02/2023 at: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/calendar-year-cy-2024-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-final-rule>

Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) Program

CMS has stated that the Appropriate Use Criteria program as a whole has been paused for reevaluation. CMS is continuing its efforts to identify a workable implementation approach, and any new approach would be discussed in future Physician Fee Schedule rulemaking.

Citations

1. Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 237 / Tuesday, December 10, 2013 p. 75002
2. Federal Register / Vol. 77, No. 221 / Thursday, November 15, 2012 p. 68316
3. <https://www.cms.gov/license/ama?file=/files/zip/2021-nfrm-opps-addenda.zip>
4. <https://www.cms.gov/license/ama?file=/files/zip/2023-nfrm-opps-addenda.zip>
5. See final rule addendum B at - <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/physicianfeeschedpfs-federal-regulation-notices/cms-1751-f>

**Questions regarding
reimbursement for Lantheus products?**

Email: reimbursement@lantheus.com



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