

## Medicare Eliminates Consults

### How do RVUs compare?

#### **OFFICE**

In most cases, you will bill a new patient visit for what was previously considered a consult. These crosswalks are shown as an example only and should not be construed as coding advice. Apply the appropriate guidelines and requirements when deciding which level of code to bill. For example, a patient who was previously billed as a 99244 may meet the complexity or time requirements to now be a 99205.

2009 Office Consults	2009 RVUs	2010 Office New Patient	2010 RVUs	Difference	Percent Change
99241	0.64	99201	0.48	-0.16	-25.00%
99242	1.34	99202	0.93	-0.41	-30.60%
99243	1.88	99203	1.42	-0.46	-24.47%
99244	3.02	99204	2.43	-0.59	-19.54%
99245	3.77	99205	3.17	-0.60	-15.92%

In some cases, you will bill an established patient visit for what was previously considered a consult.

#### **INPATIENT**

These crosswalks are shown as an example only and should not be construed as coding advice. In all cases, follow the coding guidelines to determine the appropriate initial hospital visit code. While there were 5 levels of inpatient consult codes, there are only 3 levels of initial hospital visit codes.

2009 Inpatient Consults	2009 RVUs	2010 Initial Hospital	2010 RVUs	Difference	Percent Change
99251	1.00	99221	1.89	+0.89	89.00%
99252	1.50	99222	2.57	+1.07	71.33%
99253	2.27			+0.30	13.22%
99254	3.29	99223	3.79	+0.50	15.20%
99255	4.00			-0.21	-5.25%