

# PROFESSIONAL IMAGING *review*

January 2010

## Eco-friendly Leads to Improved Efficiency

We've determined that we are going to reduce our use of paper and other unnecessary waste. To do that, we have decided that more effort is needed on our part to utilize the email and text messaging capabilities most of use already every day. We know how busy you all are, and we want to be able to communicate with you about patient care and information relating to our field and patients quickly.

Beginning in February, we will no longer be sending out newsletters in the mail. They will now come only via email.

We would also like to begin sending out a text message instead of calling when we plan to be in your area, in case you have patients who need to be seen. This way you don't have to stop what you are doing to take a call, but will still be informed.

So when you next speak to the scheduling coordinators, they will be asking for your email and cell phone number, if they haven't already. We truly appreciate your participation in helping Professional Imaging to be more eco-friendly! Efficient scheduling and better communication with you saves everyone time and resources, and above all, patients get service as quickly as possible.

## Great News for Speech Therapy Reimbursement for the 92611 CPT Code

Medicare has made many cuts this year for radiological codes that will affect the MBSS. However, Medicare increased the amount reimbursed for CPT code 92611, which is the "motion fluoroscopic evaluation of swallowing function by cine or video recording (speech therapy)."

This increase will be reflected on the bill that the facility receives for performing a MBSS on a patient who has Medicare and is not on a Part A stay. Under consolidated billing, which applies to all SNFs, this is a therapy code that has to be submitted by the facility, which is reimbursed for that amount. It is important to understand that the facility will also be reimbursed at the new, higher rate.

This has a very positive impact for speech pathologists. This indicates that Medicare has recognized the complexity of this service and that an increase in the

reimbursement for our interpretation of the Modified Barium Swallow Study is merited.

We will be sending out a letter to all of the administrators and billing offices to let them know of the increase. Please keep this newsletter to show them as well, in case they ask you why there is an increased charge for the 92611 code. They too will be reimbursed at the higher rate.

The 92611 is a county allowable set forth by Medicare. Please note the changes in the allowable amounts from last year to this year on the chart below.

Please feel free to contact me if an administrator or biller has questions or needs further clarification. Piper Harris, 832-563-7464. You can also get more information on consolidated billing at the [CMS website](#) and at the [Trailblazer Health website](#).

At the Trailblazer website, click on Medicare Fee schedule and follow the prompts to find rates specific to your area. The rate for that code in your county will be shown under facility fees and participating amount.

County	Allowable for 2009	Allowable for 2010
Brazoria	79.01	115.59
Galveston	82.04	116.88
Harris	84.61	120.06
Jefferson	75.52	110.58
Travis	118.62	83.36
All other	75.04	109.99

## Upcoming Conferences

Saturday, February 20  
Austin  
7.5 CEUs

### Deciphering Dysphagia with E-stim:

Neuromuscular Re-education of the Submandibular Muscles to Increase Laryngeal Elevation Using Class II NMES Device.

Please fax in registration form soon to 1-877-675-6277 or call the office at 281-272-6277 for questions.

*Our goal* is to host conferences in each region this year to provide you with accessible and interesting CEU opportunities.

### Please check our website

at [mbssonline.com](http://mbssonline.com) for upcoming conference information.

We are working on dates and topics and expect to have all the information to you by the end of February.

OMG! Professional Imaging is now on Facebook! We will be posting valuable dysphagia information, events, links, etc.

Join us by becoming a fan!

**Click here** or simply search for Professional Imaging.

