

Converting 2016 Medicare Relative Value Tables for Minnesota workers' compensation use (from Oct. 1, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2017)

As required by Minnesota Statutes § 176.136, subd. 1a, paragraph (d), on Aug. 8, 2016, the commissioner will publish in the *State Register* a Notice of Incorporation by Reference of the 2016 Relative Value Tables from April 2016, established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These tables are effective for workers' compensation medical services provided on or after Oct. 1, 2016.

To access these tables, take the following steps.

Step 1: Open this link:

www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/PFS-Relative-Value-Files-Items/RVU16B.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=0&DLSortDir=descending

Step 2: Click on the link to "RVU16B [Zip, 3MB]" under "Downloads."

Step 3: Open the RVU16B WinZip file.

Step 4

- Open any of the three CY2016_GPCIs files (.csv, .txt or .xlsx) to obtain the geographic practice cost indices for Minnesota. For your convenience, the April 2016 values for Minnesota are as follows.

Work GPCI	PE GPCI	MP GPCI
1.0	1.020	0.319

- Open any of the three PPRRVU16_April_V0202 files (.csv, .txt or .xlsx) to obtain the CMS 2016 relative value units and associated indicators.

Step 5: Use the CMS data from Step 4 and the Minnesota workers' compensation conversion factors to determine the Minnesota workers' compensation RVUs. The Minnesota workers' compensation conversion factors and maximum fee formulas can be found in Minnesota Rules, part 5221.4020.

Example calculations

The following are examples of calculating the Minnesota workers' compensation maximum fee using the Medicare Relative Value Tables indicated above. The conversion factors are those effective for dates of service from Oct. 1, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2017.

1. For medical/surgical services provided by physicians in an office setting – example CPT code 99213.

Maximum fee: [(work RVU*work GPCI) + (nonfacility PE RVU*PE GPCI) + (MP RVU*MP GPCI)]* conversion factor (CF).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Work RVU: } & .97 \text{ (work RVU, col. F) } \times 1.0 \text{ (work GPCI) } = .970 \\ \text{Practice expense RVU: } & 1.01 \text{ (nonfacility PE RVU, col. G) } \times 1.02 \text{ (PE GPCI) } = 1.030 \\ \text{Malpractice expense RVU: } & .07 \text{ (MP RVU, col. K) } \times .319 \text{ (MP GPCI) } = .022 \\ \text{Total Minnesota workers' compensation RVU} & = .970 + 1.030 + .022 = 2.022 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximum fee} & = 2.022 \times \$69.48 \text{ (medical/surgical CF) } = \$140.489 \\ & \text{Maximum fee, rounded} = \mathbf{\$140.49} \end{aligned}$$

2. For medical/surgical services provided in a facility setting – example CPT code 12002.

Maximum fee: [(work RVU*work GPCI) + (facility PE RVU*PE GPCI) + (MP RVU*MP GPCI)]*
conversion factor (CF).

Work RVU: 1.14 (work RVU, col. F) x 1.0 (work GPCI) = 1.140
Practice expense RVU: .38 (facility PE RVU, col. I) x 1.02 (PE GPCI) = .388
Malpractice expense RVU: .15 (MP RVU, col. K) x .319 (MP GPCI) = .048
Total Minnesota workers' compensation RVU = 1.14 + .388 + .048 = 1.576

Maximum fee = 1.576 x \$69.48 (medical/surgical CF) = \$109.500
Maximum fee, rounded=\$109.50