

TABLE 94: CY 2019 PFS Estimated Impact on Total Allowed Charges by Specialty

(A) Specialty	(B) Allowed Charges (mil)	(C) Impact of Work RVU Changes	(D) Impact of PE RVU Changes	(E) Impact of MP RVU Changes	(F) Combined Impact*
TOTAL	\$92,173	0%	0%	0%	0%
ALLERGY/IMMUNOLOGY	\$238	1%	-6%	0%	-5%
ANESTHESIOLOGY	\$1,889	0%	0%	0%	0%
AUDIOLOGIST	\$67	0%	0%	-1%	-1%
CARDIAC SURGERY	\$293	-1%	-1%	1%	-1%
CARDIOLOGY	\$6,590	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
CHIROPRACTOR	\$749	0%	1%	0%	0%
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST	\$770	0%	2%	0%	2%
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER	\$725	0%	2%	0%	2%
COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY	\$165	0%	1%	0%	1%
CRITICAL CARE	\$340	-1%	0%	0%	0%
DERMATOLOGY	\$3,477	1%	-2%	0%	-1%
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITY	\$728	0%	-4%	0%	-4%
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	\$3,110	0%	0%	0%	0%
ENDOCRINOLOGY	\$480	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
FAMILY PRACTICE	\$6,176	0%	1%	0%	1%
GASTROENTEROLOGY	\$1,750	-1%	1%	0%	1%
GENERAL PRACTICE	\$423	0%	1%	0%	1%
GENERAL SURGERY	\$2,079	0%	0%	0%	1%
GERIATRICS	\$196	-2%	1%	0%	-1%
HAND SURGERY	\$213	2%	1%	0%	2%
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY	\$1,737	-1%	-3%	0%	-4%
INDEPENDENT LABORATORY	\$640	0%	4%	0%	4%
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	\$645	-1%	1%	0%	0%
INTERNAL MEDICINE	\$10,698	0%	1%	0%	1%
INTERVENTIONAL PAIN MGMT	\$863	2%	1%	0%	3%
INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY	\$384	1%	-1%	0%	0%
MULTISPECIALTY CLINIC/OTHER PHYS	\$148	-1%	0%	0%	-1%
NEPHROLOGY	\$2,182	-1%	0%	0%	-1%
NEUROLOGY	\$1,521	-1%	-1%	0%	-2%
NEUROSURGERY	\$798	0%	0%	1%	1%
NUCLEAR MEDICINE	\$50	-1%	-1%	0%	-1%
NURSE ANES / ANES ASST	\$1,163	0%	0%	0%	0%
NURSE PRACTITIONER	\$4,043	1%	2%	0%	2%
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY	\$635	3%	1%	0%	4%
OPHTHALMOLOGY	\$5,437	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
OPTOMETRY	\$1,301	1%	0%	0%	1%
ORAL/MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY	\$67	1%	-2%	0%	-1%
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY	\$3,730	1%	0%	0%	1%
OTHER	\$31	0%	5%	0%	4%
OTOLARNGOLOGY	\$1,206	2%	-3%	0%	-1%
PATHOLOGY	\$1,158	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
PEDIATRICS	\$61	-1%	0%	0%	-1%
PHYSICAL MEDICINE	\$1,102	-1%	0%	0%	-1%
PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	\$3,930	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	\$2,447	1%	0%	0%	1%
PLASTIC SURGERY	\$373	1%	0%	0%	1%
PODIATRY	\$1,958	-1%	0%	0%	-2%

(A) Specialty	(B) Allowed Charges (mil)	(C) Impact of Work RVU Changes	(D) Impact of PE RVU Changes	(E) Impact of MP RVU Changes	(F) Combined Impact*
PORTABLE X-RAY SUPPLIER	\$98	0%	1%	0%	1%
PSYCHIATRY	\$1,177	0%	2%	0%	3%
PULMONARY DISEASE	\$1,709	-2%	0%	0%	-2%
RADIATION ONCOLOGY AND RADIATION THERAPY CENTERS	\$1,760	0%	-2%	0%	-2%
RADIOLOGY	\$4,891	0%	0%	0%	0%
RHEUMATOLOGY	\$540	-1%	-3%	0%	-4%
THORACIC SURGERY	\$356	-1%	-1%	1%	-1%
UROLOGY	\$1,733	2%	1%	0%	3%
VASCULAR SURGERY	\$1,144	0%	-2%	0%	-1%

* Column F may not equal the sum of columns C, D, and E due to rounding.

2. CY 2019 PFS Impact Discussion

a. Changes in RVUs

The most widespread specialty impacts of the proposed RVU changes are generally related to the changes to RVUs for specific services resulting from the Misvalued Code Initiative, including proposed RVUs for new and revised codes. Because office/outpatient E/M codes comprise a large volume of services in the PFS, much of the specialty level impacts are being driven by our proposal to establish a single payment rate for new patients and a single PFS rate for established patients for E/M visits levels 2-5 as well as other adjustments including: the E/M Multiple Procedure Payment Adjustment, the HCPCS G-code add-ons to recognize additional relative resources for certain kinds of visits, HCPCS G-codes to describe podiatric E/M visits, the technical adjustment to the PE methodology, and the HCPCS G-code for 30 minutes of prolonged services. For specific information on these proposals, see II.I. of this proposed rule. The estimated impacts for some specialties, including obstetrics/gynecology, urology, independent labs, and clinical psychologists, reflect increases relative to other physician specialties. These increases can largely be attributed to proposed increases in value for particular services, the proposed updates to supply and equipment pricing, and the proposed valuation of